B-14-3.

AN

APPEAL

TO

CÆSAR:

WHEREIN

GOLD And SILVER

Is Proved to be the

Kings Majeſties

ROYAL COMMODITY.

WHICH

By the Lawes of the Kingdom, no Perſon of what Degree ſoever, but the KINGS MAJESTIE, and his Privy Councel, can give Licence to Tranſport either Gold or Silver to any Perſon, after it is Landed in any part of the Kingdome of *England*. That this Great and Sacred Truſt cannot be changed into the Hands of any Perſon, Perſons, or Corporations whatſoever, without changing or diminiſhing the Sacred Power of his Majeſtie, it being againſt his Crown and Dignity.

Humbly Preſented to his Moſt Sacred MAJESTIE, and his Moſt Honourable Privy Councel, in oppoſition to ſome Merchants, who are Endeavouring, upon feigned Pretences, to diſpoſſeſſe his Majeſtie of this Royal Truſt, and to have it Confirmed by Act of Parliament, to Tranſport at the Merchants pleaſure, Forreign Bullion and Coine freely, after it is Imported into the Kingdom, and make it a Free Merchandize for their private profit, to the Damage of the whole Kingdom in general.

By *THO. VIOLET* of *London*, Goldſmith.

MATTH. 22. 21. *Render therefore unto Ceſar the things which are Ceſars, &c.*

LONDON, Printed in the Year 1660.

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UMI

TO THE

KINGS

most Excellent Majestie:

And to the

LORDS of his MAIESTIES most Honourable *PRIVY COUNCEL.*

The Humble Petition of *THO. VIOLET* of *London*, Goldsmith.

Most Dread Soveraign!

I *Your Majesties most Humble, Loyal, and Dutiful Subject, humbly upon my Knees present this insuing Narrative to Your Sacred Majesty, and to Your most honourable and prudent Councell. I had not presumed to have medled, with this cause and Argument, but that I see with what eagernesse some Merchants of* London *thought to steal one of the prime Flowers of your Majesties Crown, (from your Sacred Majesty, and Your most honourable Privy Councell) before the Rising of this blessed Parliament. True it is, Gold and Silver all over the World is a currant Merchandize, it answereth all things, and commandeth all things under the Sun.*

But so, that in all Kingdoms, Gold and Silver is a Kingly Merchandize, and only at the Kings Dispose and Will, and not at the dispose of the Merchants, to be transported at their pleasure. May it please Your Majesty, by Twenty Acts of Parliament, the Lawes of this Kingdom of England *in all Ages, hath invested it*

in the most Sacred Hands of the Kings of England, *and their Privy Councel, and none other (whomsoever, either Lords, Bishops, or Commons).*

The Reasons upon perusall of this Narrative, Your Majesty will find to have been done, upon most wise, just, and great consideration, both for the Honour, Strength, and Defence of the Kings Sacred Person, His Crown, and Dignity, and Safetie of the people.

The Money, Bullion, Gold and Silver of this Kingdom in all Ages, (till these perillous head-strong Fanatick daies) hath been counted the chief Strength of the Kingdom, the very Soul of the Militia, and the Sinews of Warre and Peace) in Your Majesties most Sacred Hands, and in Your Privy Councels, the Law of this Kingdom hath invested it, (and in none other of Your Majesties Subjects, of what condition soever,) and there let it safely remain to the end of this World.

Your Majesties most humble Subject, upon his bended Knees, prayes Your Majesty to keep this Sacred Trust intire in Your Hand, and not to diminish the least tittle, or branch of it.

O never suffer it to be at the will of the Merchant (least Your Majesty, which God defend, giving some fawning spaniels this Authority, as they desire, out of Your Sacred Hands) You give an oppertunity in a few years, that the breed of them may turn Mastives, and so they may have a power to fly in the Face of Your Sacred Majesty, as some of them did to Your Majesties Royall Father of blessed memory, which God defend; Fore-warn'd, Fore-arm'd: *I humbly think I deserved not to live, should I not say this.*

The Gold and Silver of the Nation, either Forreign Coyne, or Ingot, or the currant Coin of the Kingdom, is the soul of the Militia, and so all wise men know it, that those that command the Gold and Silver of the Kingdom, either Coin, or Bullion, to have it free at their dis-

posal

poſall, to be Judges of the conveniency and inconveniency, or to hinder, or give leave to tranſport Gold and Silver at their pleaſure, is the great Wheell of the State, a moſt Royall Prerogative inherent in Your Majeſty, Your Heirs and Succeſſors, (and none other whomſoever, but by Your Majeſties Licence, and cannot be parted with to any Perſons, but by Your Majeſties moſt eſpeciall Grant;) your Majeſty, and your Privy Councell being by the Law the only proper Judges, to have liberty to ſend to your Friends the Gold and Silver of the Kingdom.

Upon ſuch juſt Reaſons of State, as your Majeſty, and Privy Councell ſhall judg fit for the due relief of your Friends, and Allies, to offend your Enemy, and defend your Imperiall Crown, and Dignity, and ſtrengthen your Friends.

As Queen ELIZABETH ſeverall times aſſiſted HENRY the Great King of France, your Majeſties Royall Grandfather; and the States of Holland, with vaſt ſums of Gold and Silver.

The like Royall prerogative is in the Crown, upon Petition of the Merchants, ſetting forth their juſt Reaſons, and at your pleaſure your Majeſty to give them leave to ſend Forrein Gold and Silver either to the Indies, or any part of Chriſtendom; but ſo as your Majeſty, as all your Royall Predeceſſors, and your Privy Councell being in Commiſſion by your Majeſty for that ſervice, are the only proper Judges of this buſineſſe, and have the Lock and Key to diſpence with the penall Statutes, to give leave to ſend ſo much Gold and Silver of Forreign Bullion, or the Coin of the Kingdom, as your Majeſty ſhall pleaſe in your wiſdom for to grant, and to what Prince, or Country, but not at the will of any other Perſon whomſoever.

Your Petitioner humbly prayes upon my Knees, for your Majeſties honor, for your Majeſties ſafety, for the ſafety and greatneſſe of all your Lords and Gentry, for the ſafety of all your People, that your Majeſty keep this Royall Truſt intire, and the ſame always in your Majeſty, and

your most honourable Privy Councels hands, as the Appell of your Eye. Gold and Silver is a Merchandize all over the World, true, but in Kingdoms it is a Kingly Merchandize, *and not to be transported without the Kings leave. What I hear say, I upon my Knees submit to your Sacred Majesties consideration,*

Novemb. 28. 1660. *(and shall pray, &c.)*

To the Right Honourable, the Lord High Chancellour of *England*, the Lord Steward of his MAIESTIES Houſhold, the Lord High Treaſurer of *England*, the Lord *Roberts*, all of his MAIESTIES moſt Honourable Privie Councell, Theſe humbly preſent.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

I Humbly preſume for to Acquaint your Lordſhips, that I underſtand ſome Merchants of *London*, are endeavouring to obtain an Act of Parliament, to make Gold and Silver a Merchandize, to tranſport freely at their will and pleaſure, as it is at this day at *Amſterdam*, and ſeveral other Commonwealths in *Chriſtendome*.

My Lords, I am none of the Councel or Committee for Trade, and ſo it may be preſumption in me to intermeddle, to ſay any thing in this buſineſſe; but my Lords, a Stander by may ſee more in the Game then the Gameſters: I am no Lawyer, yet I humblie ſay, I know this point concerning the giving libertie to Merchants to tranſport money, and what the damage may be to his Majeſtie, to his Lords of the Councel, and to the Kingdom in general, as well as many others that are in Commiſſion for the Regulating of Trade.

If this do not ſatisfie your Lordſhips, I have it at large to ſhew this miſchief, but I hope I ſhall not need to ſay more to this buſineſſe to ſtopit.

My Lords, I have bin writing on this Argument above this moneth, and ſhall be ready to preſent to his Majeſtie, and his Privie Councel (within this week) a Paper that ſhall unfold the many miſchiefs and dangers the Merchants would expoſe the King and the Kingdom into, had they this Power in their hands: the Merchants ſhould they obtain this their deſire, and remove this Truſt out of his Majeſtie and his Privy Councels Hands, to be the only Iudges, to give leave to Merchants to tranſport Gold and Silver, would rob the King of one of his greateſt Prerogatives, and Flowers of the Crown, which by twenty Acts of Parliament and Proclamations, is only inveſted in the Kings Majeſtie, and his Privy Councel; the granting the Merchants this Power, will bring

bring an hundred inconveniences and miſchiefs to the King, Nobility, and Gentry, as I have at large to ſhew your Lordſhips and the Privy Councel, and if I do not ſatisfie his Majeſtie, your Lordſhips, and all his Privie Councel, of this that I ſay to be true, never let me have your Lordſhips good opinion, that I am either an honeſt man, or one that loves the Kings Safetie, Honour, and Greatneſſe, and the Honour of his Privy Councel.

And therefore my moſt Humble Suit is to your Lordſhip, (my Lord Chancellour) that if this buſineſſe be called on at the Councel of Trade, and your Lordſhip be preſent there this day, as I hear you intend to be purpoſely about this buſineſſe, that your Lordſhip would be pleaſed, either to put off this buſineſſe for to have it argued before the Kings Majeſtie, or his Privie Councel at *whitehall* ſometime next week, in the mean time I ſhall be ready to ſhew to your Lordſhip and the Privy Councel, that it concerns his Majeſtie next to the *Militia*, to continue and keep this great Truſt in his Majeſties Sacred hands, and in the Power of his Privie Councel, and no other perſon by the Law, can or ought to have the Priviledge, to give leave to tranſport Gold and Silver at their pleaſure, this being the ſoul of the *Militia*, they that have the money and the Peoples purſes, have virtually the Command in all Common-wealths of the Government; let who will have the Title, the Bankers have the power; and this priviledge is no where granted, but in Commonwealths, God defend *England* from the very name of a Commonwealth, for the Tragedies which were lately acted by ſome Merchants in *England*.

When we had no King in this our *Iſrael*, they have robbed the Kingdome of all the Gold, aud ſo now would work iniquity by a Law; but by Gods Aſſiſtance, I will diſſect them, and lay the danger open to his Majeſtie, your Lordſhip, and the Kings moſt Honourable Privie Councel, and ſtand or fall by your righteous Judgement, humbly praying for his Majeſties Safety, Honour and Service, that no further proceeding in this great buſineſſe be argued, but before his Majeſtie, and his moſt prudent Privie Councel, within leſſe then a week I ſhall be ready with my Reaſons for what I ſay, to ſhew your Lordſhip, that ſo all the Lovers of the King might be ſatisfied of the Damage and Danger of removing this great Truſt, out of his Majeſties and his Privy Councels Hands. So I humbly reſt

*Novemb.*27.1660. Your Lordſhips Humble Servant
THO. VIOLET.

For the Right Honourable the LORD CHANCELLOUR.

May it please your Lordship to give Order, That no further proceedings in this busines be, but before His Majesty and his Privy Council at White-hall; *and if His Majesty and Privy Council give judgement against what I say to be true, I will lose my life, when they hear this busines examined.*

WHereas the Merchants of *London* are endeavouring to get an Act of Parliament, to have liberty to export Gold and Silver freely without the Kings Majesties and his most Honourable Privy Councils leave, I humbly propound, for His Majesties service and the safety, and honour of his Majesty, that these humble Proposals might be considered of before any further proceedings on that busines be made. That his Majesty and his honourable Privy Council be pleased to keep intire in their own hands the Licencing of all Gold and Silver after it is imported into this Kingdom, to be exported or Coined, as they shall see just cause, for the safety of the Nation, and safety and honour of his Majesty and the Lords of his Council, and the safety and benefit of all his Majesties Subjects of what condition soever; and being setled in the Crown so many hundred years by Acts of Parliament, as I shall prove it, this great and Sacred trust be no way altered, especially at this Juncture of time, this Kingdom being robbed of almost all its Gold and a great part of the Silver Coin, for the private profit of particular persons, to the weakning of the Nation and the destruction of Trade, this Royal trust being one of the prime flowers of the Crown, and the very soul of the Militia, and it a right inherent onely in the King and his Privy Council, and there onely depositeq for many hundreds of Years; whereby the King (only) by the Law can give leave and licence to transport Gold and Silver after it is imported into the Kingdom; and that if you ever suffer this Roial trust to be managed by the Merchant, and suffer all persons by Act of Pailiament to be free to transport Gold or Silver, either in Coin or Bullion, after it is imported and landed in England.

You take away one of the principal Prerogatives and flowers of the Crown, destroying his Majesties Mint in the Tower of London, and

lay a ſad foundation to give ſome factious Merchants of this Kingdom a ground to make new diſturbances, and leave the Nation weak and naked of all Gold and Silver.

The granting the Merchants this power they deſire, will bring a thouſand miſchiefs both on the King and Kingdom, which God defend. In all ages, till theſe Phanatick daies, the Gold and Silver after it was landed in the Kingdom, was held the Blood and Sinews of War and Peace, the Militia and ſtrength of the Kingdom.

I ſhall humbly preſent unto you theſe following Reaſons for keeping this power intire in your Majeſty and Privy Council, and the King, Lords, and Commons cannot be ſafe to ſuffer any other perſon, upon any pretence whatſoever of the Crafty Merchant, to have the diſpoſals at their will, and for their private lucre to have the power by Act of Parliament, to tranſport Gold or Silver either to the *Indies*, or other forraign Countries, or to any part of Chriſtendom.

Without your Majeſties licence and order to take an exact account of what quantity of Gold or Silver is tranſported, to what Country, the Ship, with the Ships maſters name, either to the *Indies*, or any forraign Princes Country in Chriſtendom, or to any State, or Commonwealth; that ſo upon reaſons of State, they may either inlarg his Licences to the Merchant, or ſtraighten them according as the King and his Privy Council in their great wiſdom ſhall think fit.

Your Majeſty and Privy Council ever having regard that the Kingdome haye alwayes ſuch plenty of Gold and Silver as may be for the honour of the King, and ſafety of the people, and to maintain Trade and Comerce in the Kingdom, to pay Rents, Cuſtoms, Exciſe, and Subſidies, to be a ſtrength and an honour to the Kingdom, and the King and his Privy Council to take the care to hinder Gold and Silver to be tranſported to the Kings enemies.

And of all and every part of theſe Heads and Branches, and real Prerogatives; in all Ages the King, and none but the King, and his Privy Council, by Acts of Parliament, are the onely proper Iudges at their will, diſcretion and pleaſure, for the ſafety of the Kingdom, and no other perſon whatſoever.

Upon the ſeveral Reaſons of the Merchants to his Majeſty and his privy Council, and upon their petition and requeſt, the King can diſpence with the penalty of the Law, and give the Merchant licence to tranſport onely ſuch quantities of Gold or Silver, either forraign Coin or Ingots, or the currant Coin of the Kingdom, either in Gold or Silver, as the

the King and his privy Council ſhall think fit, for to carry on the Merchants trade in Chriſtendom, and out of Chriſtendom, to ſtrengthen his Majeſties friends, and offend his foes; and this is an undoubted right of his Majeſties Crown, and cannot be diſpenced with, or depoſited into the Merchants hands, or any other Subjects, either Lords ſpiritual or temporal, but to the diſhonour of his Majeſty and all the good people of the Kingdom, I do humbly prove it true for theſe Reaſons following.

If any perſon, of what degree ſoever, tranſport Gold or Silver without the Kings licence, the Laws and Statutes heretofore hath made it Felony, both for Biſhops, Noblemen, or Commons, as I ſhall ſhew by the Statutes hereafter following, afterwards a præmunire, and at this day forfeiture and imprisonment during the Kings pleaſure, *viz.* 9 *Edward* 3. 2 *Henry* 4, *cap.* 4, 2 *Henry* 6, *cap.* 6. 18. *Edw.* 4. 1 *Henry* 8. 5 and 6 of *Edw.* 6.

When the Kings Majeſty hath War with any Prince, by the Law the King may prohibit the Merchant to export Corn, Armes, Ammunition to them, or any other Commodities: the Law provides the prohibiting the exportations of Wool, Fullers earth, and Timber, as being deſtructive to the Nation.

Gold and Silver by the Law is free for any man to import, at what place he pleaſe to land it, without paying any Duty or Cuſtome, the reaſon whereof is, that the Merchant is obliged to Coin it, and upon the Coinage the King hath his duty paid, but once being landed, it cannot be tranſported but with leave from his Majeſty, or the forfeiture being taken, and the party claiming the Gold and Silver ſo taken on ſhipboard, to be committed to priſon without Bail, till the King or his privy Council pleaſe to diſcharge him: This is the Law, this the Cuſtome, before theſe mad Phanatick daies that we had no King in *Iſrael*.

And this in all Ages was the practice both in your Exchequer and the Star chamber, for otherwiſe the Merchant, for his private profit would ſend all the Gold and Silver out of the Nation, and make the Kings proclamation wait upon the Merchants Exchange, as at this day it is with the Gold: The Merchants and ſome Goldſmiths have raiſed Gold above the Kings proclamation: may it pleaſe your Majeſty, we want a Star chamber to puniſh them. I humbly leave it to conſideration, no Gold to be had under one ſhilling ſix pence in twenty ſhillings, more then ſilver; I humbly pray an Act might paſs this preſent Parliament againſt this abuſe of the Gold Coin, and ſeveral other abuſes and cheats

put on the Nobility and Gentry by the adulterating and undue making Gold and Silver Lace in *London*, whereby the wearers are daily cozened by course slight adulterate Gold and Silver, and by putting a slight body of Silver on a great threed of silk, to the damage of this Nation, above fifty thousand pound a year, as I will prove it to your Majesty and your Privy Council; and this is done for want of a Regulation of the Work-masters and Workmen in *London* that make Gold and Silver Lace, without an Essay, or Fineness, or proportion of Silver to Silk.

I humbly desire your Lordships to consider what a loss the King will have in his Customes, to suffer Gold and Silver to be exported at the pleasure of the Merchant, and pay no Custome; here will be, for the profit of particular *Merchants*, a Trade driven both inwards and outwards, and the King have neither Excise nor Custome; for all the World knows, Gold and silver payes no duty inwards, it is free to be imported at the pleasure of the *Merchant*, when and how, and where he please, for the reasons aboveſaid:

And if you give the *Merchant* leave to transport the Gold and *Silver* freely he imports, what is the King the better by this Trade of the Merchants, either inwards or outwards? let this be granted to the Merchants, to send out *Silver* and Gold freely, for their private profit, and in a few years they will leave neither Gold nor *Silver* in the Nation.

May it please your Majesty, It is profit that is some Merchants guide, not honour, nor the safety of the Nation, and this is most apparent by some mens actions and demands, touching this great business; The King will lose in point of His Excise, and Customs, for if the Merchant invest his Silver and Gold in Merchandies, the King hath thereby His Excise and Customs: the King will lose in point of His Mintage; if no money be coyned, no profit by coynage: this hath made the Mint, a great part of their Work-houses fall down: It is for the Kings honour to have His Kingdoms full of Gold and Silver, for His, and the Subjects defence.

And if this Fanatick project should take, the King loses one of the principal prerogatives of His Crown, and Dignity; for those that have the command of the peoples purses, have the principal part of the *Militia*.

This is a Common-wealth trick, but tends to the undoing of a King, in all Countries where the Merchants can set up a banck, and transport money freely, as at *Amsterdam*; have not these men the command of the *Militia*, they are the peoples Princes, and virtually the Banckers have the power

power, riches, and ſtrength of the Common-wealth, let who will have the Title, the Prince of *Orange*, and the Duke of *Venice*, &c. but the Banker, and the hogan mogan Merchants have the power.

The reaſon is clear, they have got the people by the money, and leave them nothing but ſome Stivers, and baſe money to buy victuals; and indeed the people have nothing but a paper credit; in a Kingdome the Merchants will never put up a banck, leaſt the King ſhould ſeize on it all, they will not allow a King to do that they practice.

And I humbly ſay, it is not for the ſafety of the King, nor Lords, to let the Merchants have liberty to tranſport Silver or Gold at their pleaſure, to forreign Bancks, and Common-wealths, leaſt the Merchants in a year or two put the ſame trick on the King, and Kingdom, for all their current Silver, as at this day they have done for all the Gold of the Nation. Let the greatneſſe of the Merchant be as a Hand-maid to the Kings greatneſſe, and ever ſubordinate to the King.

Or elſe a confederation of twenty Merchants and Goldſmiths, ſhall make the Engliſh ſhilling, in ſpite of the Kings Proclamation, and againſt His Crown, and Dignity, and in deſpite of an Act of Parliament, to go for 13.d. every Engliſh ſhilling; twenty ſhillings, for twenty one ſhillings eight pence; let but the Merchants make Silver a Merchandize, as the Goldſmiths and Merchants have already done Gold.

I beſeech your Majeſty to obſerv your Royal Father of bleſſed memory, never did by His Proclamation, or at his Mint in the *Tower*, raiſe the Gold coined at above twenty ſhillings a peece in payment. Doth not the Statute 5. and 6. of *Edw.* the ſixth, make it forfeiture of the value, for any perſon whomſoever, to utter, or put off Gold or Silver money at above the Kings Proclamation, and impriſonment during the Kings pleaſure? Do not above ten Proclamations ſay the ſame? this is the known Law. Yet at this day, by the confederation of ſome Merchants and Goldſmiths, in ſpite of this Law and Proclamations, for the Merchants and Goldſmiths private profit, the current Gold is not by any perſon to be had, a twenty ſhilling peece under 21.s.4.d. 21.s.6.d. 21.s.8.d.

Your Majeſty ſhall receive a hundred thouſand pounds in Silver, and not have a twenty ſhilling peece in Gold in a payment in the Exchequer. What is the reaſon the Merchants and Goldſmiths have made it a Merchandize? they have againſt your Majeſties Lawes, to your weakning, and diſhonour, and againſt your Majeſties Imperial Crown, and Dignity, robbed You, and the Kingdom, of all the Gold; broke your Royal Statutes and Proclamations, beggered your Majeſties Mint.

And these very men that have thus abused your Majesty, after all this licentiousnesse, are so bold to desire to steal one of the prime Flowers out of your Majesties Crown.

Which is by having an Act of Parliament, that they might freely, and at their will transport Gold and Silver, at their pleasure; they will (if they could get this great power into their hands) leave neither Gold nor Silver in the Nation, but light and clip'd money, groats, ninepences, and thirteenpence-half-pennies; let this be but taken notice of, how the Merchants have robbed your Royal Father, your Majesty, and the whole Kingdom, of the currant Gold of the Nation.

And then I humbly leave it to your Majesties wisdom to consider what a project this is, tending to the weakning of your Majesty, and Kingdom.

These men that have transported the Gold and Silver of the Kingdom already, without your Majesties leave, and against the Law, are grown monstrous rich many of them by transporting all the Gold of the Nation, and most of the Silver.

And now their riches makes them so bold, thinking to bribe out all businesse, as formerly they did in the Rump Parliament; they would work iniquity by a Law, if your Sacred Majesty, or your privy Councellors should ever permit them, to the ruine and damage of the whole Kingdom, to gratify the greedy avarice of some Merchants, whose covetousnesse will never be satisfied; gain is their godlinesse, and not godlinesse their gain.

May it please your Majesty, your Royall Grandfather, and Father, King James and King Charles of blessed memory, gave a stop to this mischief of transporting Gold, by bringing some of the Merchants of *London*, that transported Gold and Silver into forreign parts, into the *Star Chamber* in the years 1619. Sir *William Curtine*, Sir *Peter Vanlor*, Mr. *Delabar*, Sir *Moses Trian*, and some twenty more were fined in the *Star Chamber* at near two hundred thousand pounds, and paid King James into his Exchequer, for their composition, about one hundred thousand pounds; this sentence gave a stop to the transporters of Gold, and upon this sentence, shortly after the Mint flourished.

Your Majesties Royal Father, in the year 1635 King Charles of blessed memory, commanded me your Majesties Humble and Loyall Subject, to discover all such as transported Gold or Silver without His leave. I have the Kings Majesties Gracious Letter to me of thanks for my good and acceptable Service, under His Majesties Royal Hand and Signet,

Signet, for discovering the transporters of Gold and Silver, which Letter I have ready to produce to your Sacred Majesty. I caused the transporters of Gold at my own charge to be fined 24100 pounds, I caused upon command of his late Majesty to be filed in the Exchequer in 1648, as will appear on Record at this day, above a hundred several informations against the Transporters of Gold and Silver, at my charge many hundred pounds, I know the men and their instruments at this day as well as I know my right hand from my left. I caused an exception, to have all the Transporters of Gold excepted out of the general pardon granted by the Parliament in the year 1651, as will appear in the Act, I put in an exception to have had it excepted in his Majesties general pardon 1660, but there was so many guilty persons that had transported Gold and Silver out of the Kingdom, that I could not get it put into the Bill to have these offences excepted, whereby your Majesty lost one hundred thousand pounds, had I got it excepted out of your Majesties pardon, there was above an hundred Merchants and Goldsmiths that I have proof against, for transporting Gold and Silver, and robbing the Kingdom of Millions of money; if your Majesty please, I wil give your Privy Council a perfect list of their Names who transported Gold & Silver, that should have paid your Majesty one hundred thousand pounds, and thank God they escaped so too; I have all the charge against them, and the informations in the Exchequer is now on Record, and informations filed, to the just value of six hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

1648. On Fryday Braudgm brought me your Majesties Royall Fathers command to put a charge against the Transporters of Gold in the Exchequer. Notwithstanding his Majesties former command to forbid me to discover the Transporters of Gold 1643. because his Majesty heard that some Members of Parliam. in 1648. was sending away their estates in Gold, he would have them discovered, and made known to the people how they robbed them of their Treasure.

This business I acted, by command of his late Majesty of blessed memory, and did lay out of my Purse the sum of nineteen hundred and sixty pounds in discovery of the transporters of Gold in one thousand six hundred thirty six, and had not your Majesty pardoned the offenders, I would not for my share have taken twenty thousaud pounds of them.

I have it under your Majesties Royal Fathers hand and signet from Oxford, that he would pay me for my great good and acceptable service in discovering the transporters of Gold.

This true account I humbly give your Majesty, to shew there is no man in the Kingdom can discover the transporters of Gold so well as my self; I know them as well as the Beggar knows his Dish, and this is done by intelligence.

I was for seven years commanded by his late Majesty to give a stop to the transporting of Gold and Silver, and I did effect it, as appears by your Royal Fathers Letter, ready to be produced to your Majesty.

Here

Herefolloweth your Majesties Royal Fathers Letter verbatim, *viz.*

Charles R.

TRustie and Wel-beloved, We Greet you well. Whereas We have formerly imployed you for the Discoverie of all such as Transported Gold and Silver Coin beyond the Seas, and all such likewise who contrarie to the Laws, and for their own private gain, have melted down great quantities of Silver; Wherein We acknowledg you did Us good and acceptable service, for which (when God shall enable Us) We do hereby promise to give you full satisfaction. And for that We understand that you are pressed by Our Two Houses of Parliament to proceed in the said Discoverie, We do hereby strictly Command you that you intermeddle no further therein, without Our special Direction, As you will answer the contrarie at your peril. And for so doing, this shall bee your sufficient Warrant. Given at Our Court at Oxford, *the nineteenth day of* November 1643. *in the nineteenth year of Our Reign, &c.*

By His Majestie's Command,

GEORGE DIGBIE.

To Our Trustie and Well-beloved *Thomas Violet* Goldsmith in *London.*

If

If your Majeſtie will be pleaſed at this time to command me to Catch theſe *Moles* that work under ground, the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, and will Graciouſly Impower me with a Commiſſion, and Warrants to do the ſame, I will undertake to ſet your Majeſties Mint on work again, and ſtop the Tranſporting of Gold and Silver.

Vaſt ſums of Mony is Tranſported daily, both Gold and Silver, which, if not in time prevented by your Majeſtie, and your Majeſties Honorable, and Prudent Councel, will weaken, and deſtroy your Majeſtie, and the Nobility, and the Commonalty in general, to make a few Merchants. If it be your Majeſties, and the Lords of your Councels pleaſure, to impower me to do it, I will (by Gods aſſiſtance) remove the obſtructions of the Mint.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie, I ſhall humbly deſire, before any further progreſſe of this buſineſſe be made, concerning the giving the Merchants leave to tranſport Gold or Silver. That by your Majeſties eſpecial Command, a ſelect Committee of Merchants may meet, with ſome of the Officers of your Majeſties Mint, and my ſelf, and that we may be ordered to make a true Calculation of all Forreign Coins, both Gold and Silver, what every Coin will make, being its full weight, in the *Tower* of *London*, & that we ſend for over from beyond the Seas Placcarts, Edicts, and Proclamations, of Forreign Countries; And that a Jury of Arteſts be commanded upon Oath, to make a true Report how they find Gold and Silver over valued in other Countries, and report as neer as they can the juſt and true Standard in Forreign Mints, what proportion they hold to the Mint of the *Tower* of *London*. When this is done, to conſider of what waies and means they uſe to keep their Mints on work, that ſuch waies as may be advantageous for ſetting your Majeſties Mint on work, may be obſerved to prevent former abuſes. That the waies and means how theſe Differences, Standards, may be rectified beyond Seas, and all Standards reduced to a pair, and equalitie with *England*, and this Miſterie unfoulded truly to your Majeſtie after the eſſay by fire and water.

And ſo when this buſineſſe, which is very weightie, is truly, and rightly ſtated by the Eſſay, Fineneſſe, and Weight, and is ſtrictly, and exactly ſtated to your Majeſtie, and your Privy Councel, then may it pleaſe your Majeſtie, by, and with the advice of your Privy Councel, ſuch waies may be concluded on, as your Majeſtie in your great wiſdom with advice of your Privy Council ſhall judge beſt for your ſervice.

They being truly informed both by your judicious Merchants, and the Warden, Maſter, and Comptroller of the Mint, being aſſiſted with a

Jurie of Arreſt to make Eſſay upon Oath. By this way I humbly ſay, the whole truth of this buſineſſe will be found out.

The Law ſaith that Gold, and Silver, and Corne, and a mans Houſe is every mans own, to have a propriety in it to make uſe of between party and party, but not to deſtroy the propriety, but he is finable by the Law: a man cannot lawfully burn his own Houſe, burn his own Corne, Tranſport his own money, but it is finable; and this was uſed in the Star Chamber by the Atturny *Banks*, and the King's Councel at Law, as an Argument againſt the Tranſporters of Gold, in the Twelfth year of King CHARLES in the Star Chamber, when I proſecuted the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, by command of the late King CHARLES.

I had diſburſed in cauſing the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver to be fined in the Star Chamber 24100l. at my charge 1960l. and never as yet had penny for that ſervice. This very ſentence kept the Gold and Silver in the Nation, till the beginning of the late War 1643. For which Service your Royal Father gave me thanks as aforeſaid, but as yet never had penny of Money for doing that Service.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie, whoſoever goes about to take the prerogative out of your Majeſties, and your Privy Councels hands, of hindring the Tranſporting Gold and Silver without your Majeſties licence; I humbly ſay it is a Jeſuitical, Fanatick deſign, under the ſpecious pretence of Freedom of Trade, to rob your Majeſtie, and your Privy Councel, of the priviledg of keeping in the Treaſure, and Wealth of this Kingdom, weakning your Majeſtie, and your Privy Councel, and your Royal Prerogative, leaving the Wealth, and Treaſure of this Kingdom, in Gold and Silver, to be guided by the covetous deſire of ſome Merchants, many of them care not two pence for the ſafety of the Commonwealth, ſo they, and their private Families grow rich. I humbly ſay it is a preſumptuous motion of ſome hot headed Merchants, that would by crafty and ſly pretences rob your Majeſtie of that which is next to the Militia of the Kingdom, nay, it is the very ſoul of the Militia, Gold and Silver; get to be Maſter of that, any man may get Shipping, Armes, Money, and any thing to make a diſturbance in the Kingdom.

We lately ſee upon what ſlie pretences the Sword was wrung out of your Majeſties Royal Fathers Hands; he that caſt his eye upon any of the Flowers of your Majeſties Imperial Crown, with intent to take them out either by fraud or force, let them fall as *Corah*, *Dathan* and *Abiram*, and let their end be like *Achitophels*, who ſeek to rob your Royal Majeſtie of this your juſt Prerogative.

And

And this I here humbly ſay, I will with my life maintain before your Majeſtie, and your Privy Councel, and the Parliament or Committee of Trade: And theſe following *Statutes*, Lawes and Proclamations are my Protection, and Warrant for what I humbly ſay.

1. *A Proclamation againſt giving for Gold, more then it is currant.* 21. July. 17. Jacob.

2. *A Proclamation againſt melting, and culling heavy Engliſh Money.* 18. May. 9. Jacob.

3. *A Proclamation againſt buying and ſelling Gold and Silver at higher Priſes then the Mint.* 14. May. 1. Jacob.

4. *A Proclamation againſt Tranſporting of Gold.* 23. May 1. Jacob.

5. *A Proclamation againſt Profit for Gold and Silver; And melting* Engliſh *Money. And to prevent the abuſes and waſt, in making Gold and Silver Threed, and Laces.* 4. Feb. 3. Caroli.

6. *A Proclamation againſt Tranſporting Gold and Silver, and melting down the Currant Silver Coins of the Nation, for Plate, or Gold, or Silver Threed.* 15. May. 3. Carolus.

May it pleaſe your Majeſtie, to obſerve with what care the wiſdom of former Parliaments intruſted the Kings of *England*, and their Privy Councel, to keep carefull watch that the Gold and Silver once imported into this Nation, ſhould be converted into Coin, for the Strength and Honour of the Kingdom; that thoſe that did Tranſport Gold and Silver without the King's Licence, were Felons. And in the Tryall in the Star-Chamber, 12. *Caroli Primi*, which I followed by Order of his late Majeſtie of bleſſed memory. The Atturney-General *Banks*, and the King's Councel, read many Preſidents, wherein the Tranſporters of Gold and Silver had judgment, and ſuffered execution of death, as Felons.

Your Majeſtie will finde tranſporting Gold or Silver without the Kings licence to be Felony, and by ſeveral Acts of Parliament, 17 *Edw.* the 4. and the 4 *Henry*, *cap.* 13. And I humbly conceive the Kingdom is in as great ſcarcity of Gold and Silver now as it was then, for almoſt all the Gold and Silver is tranſported without the Kings licence by the diſturbance of the late War, and now ſome Merchants are grown ſo preſumptuous, that they would have an Act of Parliament to make it to be at the will of the Merchants to tranſport what Gold or Silver freely they pleaſe without licence from the King, it were better for the Kingdom that theſe that go about to take this prerogative from the King,

were blind, rather then the reſt of the Kingdom ſhould ever ſee that day theſe Merchants ſhould have their will, Stat. 9. *Edw.* the 3. againſt the tranſporting of Gold or Silver without the Kings licence, or the melting down the currant ſilver coin by Goldſmiths or others into plate Stat. 2. *Hen.* 4. *cap.* 4.

No perſon ought to preſume to rranſport Gold or Silver either in coin or bulion, upon pain of forfeiture of as much as they might, which I take to be lives and eſtates.

2 *Henry* 6. *cap.* 6. Upon a grievous complaint made in Parliament, That great ſums of gold and ſilver was tranſported without the Kings licence out of this Kingdom, it was ordered and enacted, That no gold, or ſilver ſhould be tranſported out of the Realm, and becauſe it is ſuppoſed the gold and ſilver is tranſported by Merchant aliens, it is ordered, That the Mercheant aliens ſhall find ſecurity in the Chancery that they ſhall not tranſport the gold or ſilver monies out of the Kingdom upon pain of forfeiture of the ſum or value, and if any do contrary and that duly proved, his pledges ſhall pay the forfeiture, though the Merchant ſtranger be gone beyond the Seas: If this Law had been put in execution this laſt twenty years, the Kingdom had had millions of gold and ſilver, which it is now robbed of, and the offenders are now grown ſo impudent to hope to get an Act of Parliament to rob the kingdom of all the gold and ſilver, as the greedy Merchant ſhall find and ſee his opportunity to ſend away what gold and ſilver they pleaſe, without the Kings majeſty or his privy Councils licence for the future.

18 *Edw.* the 4. No perſon to carry gold or ſilver, or jewels out of the kingdom upon pain of Felony.

1 *Henry* the 8. *cap.* 13. An Act made that whoſoever ſhall carry any gold or ſilver out of the Realm without the Kings licence, ſhall forfeit double the value.

The 5th. and 6th. of *Edward* the 6th. *cap.* 16. An Act touching the exchange of gold or ſilver, that whoſoever gave more for gold or ſilver, then it is or ſhall be declared by the Kings Proclamation, ſhall ſuffer impriſonment for the ſpace of a year, and make fine at the Kings pleaſure, the one moity to his Majeſty, and the other moity to the Partie, that ſhall ſeize the ſame, or will ſue for it by the Bill of information; were the Gold-ſmiths of *London* ſued on this Statute it would ruine moſt of them. Had not the Act of Oblivion pardoned them, but that gives them no licence or protection now at this day to act as they do, to ſell gold for 21 and 22 ſhillings for a Twenty ſhilling peice.

Till

Till this be remedied and the rule for the price of gold set by your *Majestie*, the Mint will never coin gold to any considerable quantity.

If this desire of the Merchants should go on, the Kingdom of *England* which in all Kings raigns abounded with gold and silver, and famous for their pound sterlings, the true guide and measure of our monies will be put to use the Rooking tricks of the Bankers of *Amsterdam*, and other Commonwealths.

Feed the people with a paper credit and the Merchants have all the peoples money; I beseech your Majesty to consider of this monstrous design and proposals of the Merchants, should by your Majesty be granted, which God defend, in whose hands your Majesty disposeth the Militia of the kingdom, even truly your *Majesty* would surrender the Militia of the kingom into the Merchants power.

To send away all the treasure of the kingdom, by which means, they will so fetter and impoverish the people of the kingdom, that when your Majesties loving Subjects would give you aid by consent of Parliament, they have no monies to do it but at the *Merchants* pleasure, who will be the onely Judges of the price they shall pay by exchanging, and the quantity in coin they will please to let the people have.

Should the Parliament now grant your *Majesty* a paiment of a hundred thousand pounds in coined *English* gold, at twenty shillings the peice of gold, according to the Lawes and Statutes and your royal Fathers Proclamation, which forbids all either Forreigners or Natives whomsoever, to pay, give, or utter the currant coins of gold or silver at above the Kings proclamation, upon pain of forfeiture and imprisonment during the *Kings* pleasure. See the Statute law 5, 6, *Edward 6.* Yet for all your *Maiesties* lawes and proclamations, your *Maiesty* nor the Parliament shall not receive a hundred thousand pounds in gold or a hundred pound, but at the *Merchants* price, *viz.* 21 shill. 4 pence, 21 shill. 6 pence, 21 shill. 8 pence, 22 shill. for a twenty shillings piece of gold. This is done in contempt of your *Majesty* and the law, because the *Merchants* have got all the coined gold into their hands, and transported it to forraign parts, and they will not let it come back again but at their pleasure and price make silver a free merchandize, the merchants will guide the prize and send it all away, to the destruction of your Maiesties *Mint.*

The

The Merchants of *London*, had they this power they desire, would by tricks, either by Security or Exchange, get all the Gold and Silver into their hands.

And then I tremble to think what will follow, if the Merchants be Masters of all the money: your Majesties Fleet will lie at *Chatham*, at *Portsmouth*, *&c.* and no moneys to be raised, but at the will of their Bankers; Your people in Parliament shall grant your Majesties Subsidies, and when it comes to be paid, they have no money but what is in the Merchants Banks, or upon the Merchants Security, they having gotten into their hands all the money.

All the world knows, the whole stock of the money of the Kingdom, is to be disposed of by the credit of the City of *London*; the City of *London* gives the Rule to the Kingdom, and the Merchant of *London* for credit upon money rules the City, now if your Majestie should put this power into the Merchants hands, to transport Gold and Silver at their pleasure, it would be a ready way to see the late Tragedies acted over again; and it is granted by all persons, that Gold and Silver commandeth all things; if your Majestie should part with this Royal Prerogative, I humbly desire your Majestie, upon my knees, to consider where you will lodge this great Jewel, which is the quintessence of the *Militia:* I humbly say many Merchants of *London* are recovered but lately out of the madness of a dangerous Rebellion, and wise men use to watch such as have been once frenzie afterwards in all their actions, lest being let goe at their own pleasure they one time or another do either themselves or some others a mischeif; this I now humbly say, is to preserve your Majesties Greatness, Honour, and safety of your *Majesty*, and your most honourable Privy Council.

I study not to please some Merchants, but to serve your Majestie in truly stating this business, I being formerly imploied in this service by your Royal Father he would have believed me in this point, and concerning the regulating of Gold and Silver lace, and removing the obstructions of the Mint for seven years, I had the onely care of this business by his Majesties order, to prevent the transporting Gold or Silver.

If your Majestie suffer the Merchants to obtain this their desire, all the paiments of the Kingdom will be unfixed, and your Majesties Subjects will have no money left but Groats, and some odd monies, to buy Butter and Eggs; the Tenants must pay their Rents after the Barbarious way in SCOTLAND, in Boules of Corne, and Chaldrons of Victualls, Coles, Horses, Cowes, and Sheep. Your Majesties Privy Councel, and

and your great Lords, and Gentry, muſt truck with their Tenants inſtead of a thouſand pound Sterling, to be paid them in current Gold and Silver, according to 20. s. the pound Sterling for Gold, they muſt at this day pay 21. s. 6. d. if they will have a twentie ſhillings peece; is not this a wrong and dimunition to all the Lords in ENGLAND, ſeven pound ten ſhillings in the hundred, in all the Rents they are out of by Leaſe.

But let Silver be made a free Merchandize, to Tranſport at their pleaſure, without your Majeſties leave, farewell all Land-Lords payments in money (then, which God defend your Majeſtie ſhould expoſe all the Nobilitie to be at the will of the Merchants, for to receive either their Rent in Money or Ware.) All payments in Silver will raiſe the price of your Engliſh ſhilling ſhall be ſet againſt your Majeſties Crown, and Dignitie by the Merchant, as at this day, all the world know they have preſumed without your Majeſties leave, and againſt your Lawes, to ſend away all your Majeſties current Gold of the Nation, and to make it a Merchandize here in *London*, in contempt, deſpite, and affront of your Majeſtie, the Parliament, and your Majeſties Lawes and Statutes, and now are ſo brazen Fac'd, that they look, and ſue to have libertie to rob the King of this great priviledg. I humbly hope the Merchants bribeing daies are paſt, they had once a time in the long Parliament to make their Gold and Silver break thorough all Barrs, all Lawes; a Corporation of *London*, with a joynt Purſe, was ſuch a *Roman* Ram, that it batter. ed down all the Lawes, and Statutes. I humbly hope this buſineſſe, and the miſchiefs that would follow, if they ſhould obtain, their deſire is ſo clearly ſtated, to be only in your Majeſtie, and your moſt Honourable Privy Councel, that you will never part with it to any Corporation of Merchants, or others, but to keep it ſafe where the Law hath diſpoſed it, it is a Iewel the Law hath inveſted in the Crown, and cannot be valued, it is an ineſtimable Pearl, and Riches.

That if the Merchants could by confederation pay down a Million of Money to your Majeſtie preſently, to have it in their hands; Your Majeſtie would be a loſer, Your Majeſtie would part with that which is Your Honour, Your Safetie, Your Lords, and all Your Peoples ſafetie, the Soul of the Militia.

I pray God upon my Knees, your Majeſtie, and your Privy Councel, would conſider what is here ſaid, and ſet a mark on theſe men that attempt under ſly and fained pretences, by ſubtiltie and craft, to undermine your Majeſties Throne, Crown, and Dignitie; theſe men that deſire this to be in their Power, are like Water men, look one way, and Row another.

Theſe

Theſe men many of them have deſigned in their heart the moddle of a Common-wealth, to be the fitteſt Government for this Kingdome; God hath delivered your Majeſtie from the *Sword-man*, the Club-man, and hath reſtored your Majeſtie to the Glory, and *Greatneſſe* of your Royal Father, and your Predeceſſors, with the Hearts of all your good *Subjects*, and a large increaſe of the Revenues of your Crown, to the joy of all your *Majeſties* good *Subjects*.

This Glory troubles ſome *Mungrels* of LONDON, that dare not bark, but are at this day cunning fauning *Spaniels*, that would by fauning cozen your Majeſtie of this Great, atd Royal Prerogative, which had they it, in ſeaven years they may lay ſuch a Foundation, that the Child unborn may rue it.

I have read of a little Fiſh that ſticking to a Ships ſide ſhall ſtop a great Ship under ſail. The Merchants of a Kingdom or Common-wealth that are Bankers and have libertie to tranſport Gold and *Silver* at their pleaſure, rule the Commonwealth both for War or *Peace*, and have virtually the ſovereign power, being Maſters of all the peoples monie. Theſe Bankers can hang a Pad-lock on the Commonwealths Sword when they pleaſe: God defend your Majeſtie and your Lords from ſuffering them to do ſo in your Kingdom of *England*, for all the reaſons before and after following.

The *Merchants of London* have tranſported all the Gold and moſt of the Silver out of *England*, principally by the confederation and aſſiſtance of the Goldſmiths in *Lumbardſtreet*, who are juſt in the nature of the Bankers at *Amſterdam*, and the Goldſmiths is your Merchants Jac-call as the Jac-call is to the Lion, they hunt for the Lions prey. The Goldſmiths lay up Gold and Silver for the Merchants to tranſport, ſome Goldſmiths in *Lumbardſtreet*, keeping at this day many great Merchants of *London* caſhes, and ſome Noble mens caſh by this credit of ſeveral mens monies, the Goldſmiths in *Lumbardſteet* are in the nature of Bankers, and have a great ſtock of *Treaſure* by them alwayes of Gold, forraign coines, and Silver.

And as theſe and the Merchants pleaſe to truck and and chaffer, ſet the price of the currant Gold of your Kingdom at above the price currant by Proclamation of your Royal Father, and above the price of your Mint, to the deſtruction of your Majeſties Mint, and againſt your Crown and Dignities; your Majeſties *Mint* is tied to a certain rule both for the weight and fineneſs of the Standard of your Majeſties Gold and Silver, and cannot by the Law exceed; now here is the miſchief.

The

The Goldſmiths they go between the Mint and the Merchants that tranſports Gold and Silver, and out-bids the Mint, 1.d. and ſometimes 2.d. and more the Ounce in Silver, and five ſhillings the Ounce in Gold at this day, and ſo catch up all the Gold and Silver to tranſport, being Factors, and Purveyors to the Merchants that tranſports Gold and Silver.

And by this confederation between the Merchants, and Goldſmiths, contrary to the Lawes, and Proclamations of the Kingdom, they have cheated, and robbed the Kingdom, and your Majeſties Mint in the *Tower* of *London*, and for theſe laſt fifteen Years have deſtroyed, and made deſolate the ſame.

Your Majeſties Mint in all times, by the Law, ſhould have the preheminence, and firſt ſerved.

Your Majeſties Mint at this day is neglected, your Majeſties Lawes deſpiſed, and your Majeſtie, and the Kingdom of *England*, Lords, Gentry, Commons, cheated, and robbed of all your Gold, and almoſt all your Silver, to the weakning, and impoveriſhing of the Kingdom.

This wickedneſſe is done onely for the inriching of a few particular Perſons, Goldſmiths, and Merchants, to the deſtruction of the whole Kingdom, and if not timely prevented, to the ruine, and deſtruction, and decay of Trade. This was done when we had no KING in *Iſrael*, God forbid your Majeſtie now ſhould ſuffer it.

If your Majeſtie by your juſtice do not make ſome of theſe Offendors an example, and timely prevent it, by the grave advice of your moſt Honourable Lords of the Councel for the time to come, to prevent theſe abuſes by a Law, or renewing the old Laws by your Majeſties Proclamation, making it loſſe of Eſtate for any Goldſmiths to ſell any Merchants Gold or Silver to tranſport, or to convert Gold or Silver into any other uſe then Plate, and Gold, and Silver Wyer, the Offendor for ever after to loſe his Freedom.

And that no Merchant, or Goldſmith, ſhall give for Gold or Silver more then it ſhall be declared for by Proclamation, upon pain of forfeiture. And that all Goldſmiths that are Exchangers of Forreign Bullion, ſhall enter into ſecuritie with the Officers of your Majeſties Mint, to your Majeſties uſe, to Coin the ſame, and to convert it to no other uſe. That no Merchant obtain a Licence from your Majeſtie, to tranſport Gold or Silver, nor the Eaſt-*India* Company, other, or more then they themſelves cauſe upon their own proper accompt, to be truly imported, according to their Charter; and that all Warrants for tranſporting Gold

or Silver be Registred, and the Goldsmiths to be tyed to Coin all the Gold and Silver they shall hereafter buy, such Goldsmiths that will not to be debarred the liberty to have power to exchange Forreign Gold and Silver, this being a Prerogative of the Crown, and never granted the Company of the Goldsmiths, as I can prove by the Law, that the Warden of your Majesties Mint is your Majesties Exchanger, and he may Licence any whom he please to buy Forreign Bullion, provided they put in securitie to Coin it in the *Tower*, and convert it to no other use but to coin upon the pain of forfeiture of his Bonds to your Majestie.

May it please Your *Majesty*, my most humble prayer to Your *Majesty*, and Privy Councel is, that at this juncture of time the late Lord Cottingtons Rules & Observations may be made use of for bringing of Gold and Silver into the Kingdom, that State-man about the year 1630. made a most advantageous Contract with the King of Spaine, for the bringing in Silver from Spaine in English, bottoms and Landing the Silver at Dover, one third part to be Coyned in Your *Majesties* Royal Fathers Mint in the Tower of London, and the other two parts by Your *Majesties* Royal Father, and his Privy Councels Licence to be transported at the will of the Importer, this Commission was granted under the Great Seal of Your *Majesties* Royal Father, by the advice of his Privy Councel, and above ten millions of Silver Coyned upon that Contract, from the year 1630. to 1643. This Silver hath bin almost all transported away for the private profit of the Merchant, and little currant Silver Coyne left in the Kingdom, but light and cliped, and Counterfet mony in abundance. All the Gold sent away, to the destruction of the Kingdom, for the private profit of the Merchants. If Your *Majesty* please to inquire of Your Officers of the Mint they can certifie this is the truth. And what a dangerous Project this was of some men, to goe about to steal so Royal a Flower out of the Crown, such pilferers are Enemies to Your *Majesties* Crowne and Dignity, and ought to be watched as men newly recovered out of a Lunacy, kept from doing either themselves or others mischefe.

May it please Your Majesty, the King of *Spain* having peace with Holland and France, will not have occasion to Export so much Mony for Flanders, as He had when He had Wars with Them. Yet great Summes of Silver will dayly be Exported to Flanders from Spaine, to pay the Spanish Garrisons in Flanders, and the Trade from Spaine to Antwerp, to pay the Bankers there, will dayly cause great quantities of Silver to be Exported from Spain.

I humbly desire, that upon Treaty with the Spanish Ambassador, the Lords of the Councel would take order to Carry the King of Spaines Silver, as the Lord *Cottington* setled it; and that by the Law it should be made Felony, for any Person that did not Coyne one full third part of all Silver that by agreement with the King of *Spaine* should be coyned; this Licence to be Constantly allowed to any Person upon the King of *Spains* Composition for Trade from *Spaine*. And for all other Persons whomsoever, that Import Silver or Gold, to have it by Act of this Parliament, after the said Silver is Landed, that any Person that Transports Gold or Silver, it should be Confiscation of Ship and Goods, and Imprisonment during the Kings pleasure. Besides, the Forfeiture of all Gold and Silver so put on Ship-board to Transport without Your Majesties, or your Privy

Coun-

Councels Licence; And that all Goldsmiths, or others whomsoever, that Culleth and Melteth down the Current heavy Silver Coyns, for any Manufacture, or to Transport, it shall be Felony, and that without Mercy.

If These Lawes by this Parliament be Revived, and I your Majesties Loyal Subject Impowered, and Commanded by your Majesties Most Honourable Privy Councel, to See to the due Execution of them; By the Blessing of God, I will in a few Yeares Repleniſh the Great want, and Scarcity of Gold and Silver, in the Kindgom againe; And Remove the present Obstructions of the Mint.

May it please your Majestie, It is the Execution of the Law quickens and gives life to the Law, when knowing persons shall be intrusted to see to the Execution.

There are Laws and Proclamations against transporting gold, but no incouragement considerable for a mans time, all the Laws in the world will never reform this abuse, if some Trusty persons be not appointed to look in a particular manner, and make it their business, and a man cannot imploy several people to do this service but at great charge, vigilance and diligent attendance to keep his watches, and intelligence in *London*, and the Ports; this mischief daily increases, because no knowing person is impowred and commanded to take care of this great business.

Queen *Elizabeth* would not admit the *East India Company*, at her first granting them to be a Corporation, to transport the King of *Spains* silver coin into the *East Indies*, though the Merchant prest it very often; telling her Majesty that her Silver Coin and Stamp was not known in the *East Indies*, they thinking by that to get a License to send what Silver they pleased: This most prudent Queen, and her wise Privie Councel replyed, to the Merchants of the *East-India* Company, that for the very reason the Merchant alledged, to transport the King of *Spains* silver to the *East Indies*; It was her fixed reason and resolution unalterable, she would not grant the *East India Company* leave to send the King of *Spains*, or any forreign Princes coin into *India*, but such Silver as was coined with her Effigies and Picture on the one side, and the Percullis on the other side, of the just weight and fineness of the Spanish peeces of eight, and peeces of four Royals, and no other Silver should by her Merchants be sent to *India*.

And this was her Majesties prudent reason for the doing thereof, that because the *Indians* did not know her, nor see her greatness on her Silver, her Majesty gave the *East India Company* leave to transport Gold or Silver, but so as she would for the time to come give them a just occasion to reverence and honour her, and bow at her *Effigies*, declaring she would all the world over, where she gave her Merchants leave to Trade, be known to be as great a Prince as the King of *Spain*: And that none should presume to send a greater quantity of Silver then she in her wisdome should judge fit, to the *East Indies*, as will appear by their Charter, both for the quantity, and with her *Figure*, *Motto*, and *Percullis* upon the Silver: The Queens Majesty declaring she held it as a speciall and chief Prerogative of her Crown and Dignity to put the *Percullis* upon all the Silver the *East India* [illegible]*pany* should send to the *Indies*: Nor would she admit the Merchants of t[illegible] *India Company* to send more Silver then she and her Privie

Councel did approve of; as appears in the Journal Books, the yearly Licences declaring she would have her Merchants in that point to be subordinate to her will, not her will to be ruled at the Merchants pleasure.

And so during all her prosperous Reign to her death, this great and prudent Queen ruled her Merchants, and not the Merchants her; this was according to the Law of *England*, the Queen would ever be known to be a Queen.

This Narrative will appear to be true, by the Stamps, Weights, and Standard of this Silver that was coyned in the Tower ready to be produced to your Majesty, and the most Honourable Privie Councel, if your Majesty require the same; this course continued all Queen Elizabeths *Reign, and it would be for the honour and greatness of your Majesty, that all Silver transported to the* Indies *should be coyned of the weight of Pieces of Eight, with your Majesties Royall Effigies, and the* Percullis *in the Tower of* London, *that so all the world over, the Nations might see your Royal stamp, and bow down, and do reverence; What an honour had it been to your Majesties Grandfather and Father to have had sixty hundred thousand pounds transported in Silver to the* Indies, *with their stamp, which would have been done had Q.* Elizabeths *honourable Rule been observed: I humbly desire it may be done hereafter, though your Majestie get nothing but fame, no profit. I dare undertake the* East India *Company shall have their silver coined in the Tower for 12 pence the pound weight, that is 60000 l. coyned for one thousand pounds.*

The East India Company *by monie got this Royal Priviledge laid down at the beginning of King* James *his Reign, to the great impairment and losse of his Imperial royal Crown and Dignity, and to the great losse of his Majesty in his Mintage and Coynage, and the losing and diminution of your Royal Grandfather and Father of Blessed memory, in their Revenue at this day above an hundred thousand pounds in the total sum in the duty of coyning, there being since* King James *his Reign by that Company above sixty hundred thousand pounds in Silver and Gold sent to the* East Indies, *were their Books of Entries examined, and their Books of Account to their several Factories in* India; *what they have sent yearly to every particular factory, and some Auditors appointed to make the inspection upon Oath.*

I humbly say, there would be found many hundred thousand pounds transported both of English Gold, and Silver, more then ever they had licence from the King to send to the great weakning, damage and decay of this Nation, they being a Company that heretofore used to bribe out all their abuses by one course or other.

Had not your Majesty by your Royal pardon pardoned them, they should before this time have found the East India *Company charged by me in the Exchequer with many hundred thousand pounds of English Gold and Silver, and of half Crowns and foreign Gold and Silver transported, against the Laws and Statutes of the Kingdome, let them have got off as well as they could.*

May it please your Majesty, That company pretends a debt your Royal Father should owe them for Silks and Pepper delivered unto one Burlemack, *a Merchant, about the Year,* 1630. *upon your Royal Fathers account, had not your Majestie in your great mercy pardoned this very Company of Merchants in your gracious and free Pardon,* 1660. *I could have chalked out the way to have peppered the* East India Com-

Company, it had never been so peppered since it was a Company, they are pardoned for what is past, but they have no Privilege for the time to come.

But if your Majesty command me to watch the East India *Company that they for the future send no more gold or silver then they have licence for from your Majesty, I shall faithfully do it, and give a stop to these mischiefs they have formerly committed.*

If your Majesty command, I shall not fear the riches or greatness of the East India *company, or Merchants of* London, *but I will tramel them and reduce them to the due obedience of your Majesties commands, and the Law of the Kingdom.*

For the longer this business is not looked after, makes some Merchants think to get leave to weaken the Kingdom in general, and incroach upon your Majesties Sacred Prerogative to send what silver and gold they list away for the future, without any Comptroller.

May it please your Majesty, a Court in the nature of the Star-chamber, would Frost-bite these Gentlemen, and make them pluck in their Horns, and submit to your *Majesties* Lawes, which will be for the good of the Nation in general, that these men may be curbed, and not left to rob the Kingdom of all its Gold and Silver, as some *Merchants* have taken the boldnes to do, when we had no King in this our *Israel* for this last seventeen years.

Never *School-boyes* plaid such tricks in the absence of their *School-masters*, as some of the *London-merchants* have done: When the books of the Common council of *London*, copied out together with the East *India* Companies books, be throughlie inspected, your *Majestie* and your honourable Privie Council will see incredible passages, fit for Your majestie to know, such as is for Your majesties honour and safetie for the future to prevent, *viz.*

I most humbly pray your Majestie and your honourable Privie Council, to command true Copies of all the Acts of the Common Council of *London*, from one thousand six hundred and thirty eight to one thousand six hundred and sixty, and the true copies of the East Indies Companies books of Envoys sent to their Factors, of all the Gold and Silver they sent yearly, the ships name, and by what Factor, and to what Factors in *India* and *Persia*, ever since one thousand six hundred and twentie, to one thousand six hundred and sixty: Not that I have the least thought that any of them should be punished for what is past, by reason of your Majesties gracious pardon, but that an Eye might be kept over them to keep them from committing the same or the like offences again against your Majestie, your Crown, and Dignity.

I humbly say, Iam so charitable to them, that I had rather see them alwaies

alwaies upright in all their actions, then ever to hear that your Majestie should put your Royal self to that trouble to pardon them again; when they have offended, it is better, I humbly say, for the Merchants, that your Majesty take all course to keep some Merchants from falling; then to take them up after they are down, if they be watched that they shall have no opportunitie to offend, it saves the labour of punishing any of them.

Some Merchants I have heard say at the Council of Trade one thousand six hundred and fiftie, that it is an old Heresie to hinder the transporting of gold and silver freelie, and to retain it in the Kings hands he only to give a licence to transport: Sure I am it is a Phanatick opinion for the Merchants to labour to obtain it out of your *Majesties* and your privie Councils hands.

Some Merchants are great magnifiers of Commonwealths, their Policies and Governments, those that are for an *Amsterdam model* both in the Church and Kingdom; but in our Kings sacred hands this great Trust in all Ages hath happilie continued, and no Merchant never durst ask such a request to have it at their own dispose; these *Merchants* covet more profit and gain then they do the Kings Majesties greatness, and that makes them so busie to get this Royal flower out of the Crown.

May it please your Majesty, your Standard of Gold and Silver is fixed to all your Subjects of all your Nations, the pound sterling is a fixed paiment, and is the guide to all the Bankers in *Christendom*; for till they return their Bills of Exchange for *England*, no Banker or Merchant can tell certainly the true intrinsecal value they shall receive for a hundred pounds delivered in their Banks, by Bills of Exchange to any place but onely *England*, where these paiments are fixed and paied according to the pound sterling, which is by shillings, pence, and halfpence, without any fraud or bankmonie, from the paiment of one hundred pound, to the paiment of one hundred thousand pounds, no man can be wronged of a penie, but it will exactlie appear upon the casting up of the accompt. Commonwealths and Bankers go upon Merchants subtilties, that is not for the Honour and Dignitie of your *Majestie*, to make your monie go high, when you are to paie your Armies and Fleets, and then presently to call it down in Kingdomes; *Kings are Sacred, and cannot act such dirty tricks*, as Commonwealths do.

Englands Trageay from one thousand six hundred fourtie three, to one thousand six hundred and sixtie, may serve as a warning to all good subjects

jects, how to turn Kingdomes into Commonwealths, or to leave power of transporting Gold or Silver at the will and pleasure of the merchant. *Merchants* are like fire and water, *Good Servants, but bad Masters*; in their proper spheers good, but to get a head destructive to mankind; witness the late horrible *Tragedies* fomented and continued onely by the pleasure and power of the *Merchants* and the wealth of *London*: *The burnt Child dreads the fire.* I lost twentie thousand pounds by the late Rebellion, which was hatched and kindled for the greatest part by those of *London*.

They surfeited with Plenty, Riches, and Trade, the late Royall King *Charles* the first, by his late Royall Fleets, laid the Foundation of the Merchants of *Londons* greatness and reputation all over the World, no Prince nor Commonwealth daring to injure the Merchants of *London*, but the King with the first winde had his Royal Fleets in their Harbours to demand reparation to the Merchants content, else their harbours debarred Trade. The late glorious King got the envy of the Ship monies, but never a penny of it in his Exchequer. The Merchants of *London* got the profit, advantage, and security by Trading safely, and the Seas scoured from Pyrates: How unthankfully the Merchants requited his Majesty, was shewn in this late Rebellion. I speak not this that any should be punished, but that they might be prevented for the future to do the same things again, as they did this last seventeen years.

In King *James* and King *Charles* their raigns, those good Kings was got into the Citie of *Londons* debt, and to come out of it they did part with their Lands at half the value. When Masters borrow Money of their Servants, it makes them generally overvalue themselves and slight their Masters. I hope in a few years his Majesty will be in that condition to lend the City of *London* money, upon their Charter, the like to the East *India* Company and other Companies to have their Lands bound. This was King *Henry* the sevenths way, he would alwaies have his Exchequer full of money, finding it to be the greatest security to prevent all mischief, to have the King richer then his people.

In the year one thousand six hundred fourty seven, your Royal Father being informed that many Members of Parliament, and factious Citizens was transporting and packing away their estates in Gold beyond the Seas, which these had in aboundance cozened the Kingdom of, your Royal Father commanded me by one Mr. *Francis Brogdon*, of *London* Gentleman, on whom his *Majesty* constantly imploied to go between him and his loyal Subjects, then Prisoners in the Tower:

This

This Mr. *Francis Bridgeman* brought me his Majesties, your Royal Fathers pleasure, that I should labour in the pretended Parliament-house to obtain a commission to discover the transporters of Gold and Silver, but so that if I obtained it, I should use my diligence to discover the Parliament-men, and their factious Merchants of *London*, to make them odious to the Kingdom that transported Gold and Silver out of the Nation: I used my endeavour to make them publick to the World, for several years, to get this Commission to pass by the pretended Act of Parliament, and it is well known to many of the then Parliament, Sir *James Harrington*, *Fleetwood*, and several others, but was particularly opposed by both the *Ashes*, *Allen*, *Harvey*, Sir *Henry Vane*, *Strickland*, and many others of the Parliament, and by swarms of Sectaries of the City of *London*: which men had transported the Gold and Silver out of the Nation; and therefore to be sure to have them within compass of the Law, I caused a Gentleman to file in the Exchequer a hundred informations against the transporters of Gold and silver, and to let them remain on record, till your Majesties Royal Father did come to *London* (this was about one thousand six hundred and fourty eight) at that time being the hopes and prayers of all good men. But God had decreed it otherwise, by taking your Royal Father out of this World, the World especially, this unthankful Nation, not being worthy of him, so all things rested till your Majesties happy arrival in *May* 29. 1660.

Concerning the transporting of Gold and silver, though your Majestie hath pardoned the transporters of Gold till 29. May 1661. I humbly say, your Majesty hath declared that for the future you will have all men conformable to your Laws, without respect of persons, if this rule be strictly observed, your Majesty will never put this great business of transporting Gold and Silver to be at the Merchants will and pleasure, least the same tumults and troubles be played over again by some Phanatick Merchants, as they have done within twenty years; your Majesty may as safely put a Sword into a Madmans hand, or a Knife into a Childs, as trust the Merchants to transport Gold or Silver without your Majesties licence, after it is once landed.

To

TO THE

KINGS

moſt Excellent Majeſtie:

And to the moſt Honourable the

LORDS of his MAIESTIES moſt Honourable *PRIVY COUNCEL.*

The Humble Petition of *THO. VIOLET* of *London*, Goldſmith.

Moſt Dread Soveraign!

YOur Majeſties moſt Humble and Loyall Subject for your Majeſties ſervice humblie pray, that the East-*India* and *Perſia* Companie, bring in their Charter, whereby your Majeſtie and your Privie Councel will inform your ſelves, by the Charter your Royall Father and Grand-Father paſſed with what priviledge they have granted them, & upon what conditions and reſtrictions,

2. That your Majeſtie and your Privie Councel would be pleaſed to require an accompt of the East-*India* and *Perſia* Companie, of all the ſummes of monie, Gold or Silver, either Forrain or Engliſh, which they have ſent into *India* and *Perſia*, ever ſince *July* 1620. this is no new thing, for they did in 1620. give an accompt, and made it by their Books appear, that from the Originall and firſt foundation of their Trade, in *Anno* 1601, to *July* 1620. they had ſhipped awaie for *India* onelie, 548090*l.* ſterling in *Spaniſh* monies, and ſome *Fle-*

miſh and *Germane* Dollars, which accompt was preſented in Parliament at that time.

3. Your Petitioner deſires your Majeſty to take notice, that if the State in Parliament were then ſo carefull in times of peace, and the Trade of the Nation flouriſhing, to call the Eaſt-*India* Company to an accompt for twentie years, and to cauſe them to make their accompts plainly to appear by their Books for twentie years; ſurely, I humbly conceive, your Majeſties and your Privy Councell will exſpect for the ſervice of the Kingdom, to have an exact accompt of all the Treaſure the Eaſt-*India* and *Perſia* Companie have exported; and to have them to Produce a juſt accompt, what quantities of Gold or Silver they have bought in *Holland*, and in other Forrein places, immediately upon their proper accompt; and what quantitie of *Engliſh* melted Silver in Bars, they have bought of Gold-ſmiths in *London*; what quantities of Gold in Bars, they bought of the *Guinie* and *Barbarie* Companies, what quantities of *Engliſh* coined Gold they have ſent into the Eaſt-*Indies*, and to *Perſia*; what quantities of Cardques, Rix-Dollars, Rials of *Spain*, or any other Forrein Silver, they have bought up in *London*, of Merchants, Goldſmiths, or others, which without the Eaſt-*India* Company ſo buying, would have been brought into the Mint and coined, to the great augmentation of the ſtock of this Nation. And that they be required to give your Majeſty, and your Privie Councel, an Accompt of what quantity of *Spaniſh* Piſtollets, *Dutch* Riders, *Hungarian* Duckets, Gold *Gilders*, Gold *Albertus* of *Flanders*, *Italian* Piſtolets, *Turky* Sultels, and all other Forrein Gold and Silver, they have bought up in *London*, of Goldſmiths, Merchants, Natives, and Strangers, which have not been

members

members of their Companie, and transported to *India* and *Persia*, since 1620. All which, I am sure they have perfect Accompts of. And that the aforesaid Companie be required to send your Majestie, and your Privie Councel, in all the Warrants and Licences for their doing of the same, and for a true discoverie of the premisses.

4. That your Majesty, and your Privie Councel, would require the Books of Envoies, of the same Lading of everie ship, of all the Gold and Silver, in Bars, or Coin, that hath been sent to the East-*Indies* and *Persia*, since 1620. for by them your Majestie and your Privie Councel shall see what Gold and Silver each ship carried, and the Ships, Factors, and Masters names, and to what Factorie in *Persia* or *India*, and the several years, and so your Majestie and your Privie Councell will quicklie see the just quantitie to a pennie what they have transported, and in what sort of Coin, either English Gold or Silver, or Forrein Gold or Silver, for these fourtie years; the giving your Majestie and your Privie Councell a true accompt thereof, will be of great concernment to the Kingdom in many respects.

5. That your Majestie and your Privie Councell would appoint a Committee to view over the Journal Books: for out of them there will be gathered businesses of great concernment to the Nation; and if some able Book-Keepers be appointed with me, to take out what I shall observe in them, it will tend highly to the service of your Majestie and give a stop to great mischefs that is daily practiled on the Kingdom.

6. If your Majestie and your Privie Councel please to inform your selves by this waie, your Majestie and your Privie Councel will see clearlie manie other secrets, upon perusal of

theſe Books, then I will ſpeak of, and ſo your Majeſtie and your Privie Councel will be able to rectifie and ſettle the Trade in a flouriſhing condition, that it may be benificiall to the Kingdom, and all the Adventurers, whereas heretofore, and now as it is managed, none getteth by it, but the Committees of the ſaid Companies, and the Companies Factors and their Officers. The Adventurers having been blinded ever ſince it was a Companie, and led by the noſe by their ſervants, or elſe how could their Factors and ſervants be ſo rich, and the Companie's ſtock ſo poor.

7. May it pleaſe your Majeſtie and your Privie Councel, I humblie conceive, upon the Examination of all the premiſes, When that the Books of the Companie are examined, it will be found that the Eaſt-*India* Companie hath ſent awaie the Kingdoms Coin, both in Gold and Silver, manie hundred thouſand pounds more then ever they had warrant for to do, from your Majeſties Grand-Father or Father, though your Majeſtie and your Privie Councel hath forgiven it, yet it ought to be prevented for the future this miſchief, which your Petitioner moſt humblie praies for your Majeſties and your Privie Counſels ſervice, alſo That your Majeſtie and your moſt honourable Privie Councel command a true Tranſcript under the hand of the Town-Clerk of the Citie of *London*; to be tranſmitted to your *Majeſtie* and your Privie Councel, of all the Acts, and Orders of the Common Councel from the year 1638. to the 25. *March* 1660. It is true, your *Majeſtie* by your gratious pardon hath pardoned all offences, but for the future there will be great uſe made of their Orders, to know by what degrees, and ſteps the late confuſions got to a head, and poiſoned that great bodie of your Citie of *London*;

I hum-

I humblie saie, your Majestie and your most honourable Privie Councel will make great use of the sight of them, to prevent anie the like disturbance again and to nip them in the bud (this will be for the generall good and quiet of the whole Kingdom) for as *London* pipes, so the greatest part of the Kingdom dances, especiallie all Cities and corporations, keep the spring head clear from being disturbed, the streams will run alwaies clear, they have your *Majesties* most gratious pardon for what is past, but that gives them no priviledge to act the like things again, eitherby fraud, feined pretences, or by force.

The East-*India* Companie formerlie having made it their common practice by giving great summes of monie for Bribes, to have libertie to oppress the good people of the Nation, and to have Licence with Authoritie to deceive the Kingdom; all which abuses, I praie God, by the wisdom of your *Majestie*, and your most honourable Privie Councel, may be carefullie found out, and such Order and Regulation made for the future for all Traders, as may be most for the prosperitie of this Kingdom in generall, without anie regard to particular Interest, when it shall be found destructive to the Kingdom, and your dutifull and loyal Subject shall pray for your Majesties long and prosperous Reign over us.

Novemb. 28. 1660.

Signed,

Tho. Violet.

I charged the East-India *Company before the Councel of Trade,* 1650. *with robbing the Nation of many hundred thousand pounds of Gold and Silver, more then they had Licence to send; and severall other Misdemeanours. Thereupon the Councel of Trade made these Orders.*

Die Mercurii Sept. 11. 1650.

At the Councel for Trade at *White-hall.*

Ordered,

THat the *East-*India *Company be desired to produce their Originall Charter before this Councel.*

Ordered,

THat the *East-*India *Company be desired to bring into this Councel, what Licences they formerly have had granted them for the Transporting of Bullion, or Coin, since the year* 1620.

Ordered,

THat the *East-*India *Company be intreated likewise to produce the direct and true Accompts of all the severall summes of Bullion and Coin, in any specie to the full, that hath been yearly transported by them, since the year* 1620.

Ex. Ben. Worsly, Secret.

But these Orders were never obeyed, but some of the Rump Parliament was brib'd, and no Reformation, I only got the Envy for making this

*this Discovery, I humbly hope the East-*India *Companies time of bribing out all Business is expired, now in your Majesties blessed Reign; Truth shall prevaile, especially such as are for your Majesties Honour, and Safety.*

*I shall humbly shew your Majestie the damage the Kingdom suffered by sending all the Silver to the East-*Indies *in* Spanish *monie, before it was coined with King* James's, *and King* Charle's *Face, and the Perculliſſes, as it was coin'd in the Reign of Queen* Elizabeth, *and humbly recommend it to your Majestie, and your Privy Councel, to have all Silver so coined before it goes to the* Indies.

*It is for the Greatness, and Honour of the King, to have the Silver, his Merchants Trade with, first coined with the Perculliſes, and His Effigies and Motto, all over the World; For the Kings greatneſse is the Merchants ſecuritie, and protection, and to be made of the weight of peices of Eight, and of the ſame Standard, as it was in the Queens time; the King loſes in point of Coinage by not Coining, the Silver is ſent to the East-*Indies, *as Queen* Elizabeth *did, the East* India *Companie had paid to the Kings Grandfather, and Father of bleſſed memory, a hundred thouſand pounds, which would have bin clear profit ſince King* James, *in his Majesties Exchequer, and all his Officers for Coining payd, if Queen* Elizabeths *Rule had been obſerved, to Coin all the Silver ſent beyond Seas. If the East-*India *Companie Books be looked over, they have ſent above ſixtie hundred thouſand pounds in Silver to the East-*Indies, *ſince the firſt of King* James *in* Spanish *Silver, more monie by farre then is at this day in* England. *I humbly recommend it for your Majeſties Honour and Profit, that your Majeſtie for the future may coin all Silver, or Gold, that ſo the* Indian *Princes may ſee your Effigies, and bow at the ſight thereof; As Queen* Elizabeth *made the Merchants to do, or elſe they ſhould not ſend her Silver. The true ſafetie and protection of*

the

the Merchant is, that they are Subjects of such a great King, that can cause Justice and Right to be done to His Merchants, as far as the Seas ebbs and flowes round about the World, it is truly for the Merchants securitie if they would consider rightly of all things, and love the King's Honour, as well as their own Profit.

MAy it please your Sacred Majestie, I here humbly give your Majestie, and your Privy Councel an accompt concerning my staying the Ships Sampson, Salvador, *and St.* George, 15. Decemb. 1652. *The day the Judges had resolved in the Admiraltie to clear these Ships, their Silver and Lading, there being three hundred thousand pounds in them. I saw about that time* Don Alonso Decardenis *the Spanish Ambassador Extraordinary, come to the Rump Parliament, and owned their power, as a free State and Parliament. I heard that many in* Amsterdam *was playing the same prancks there with the Prince of* Orange, *as the Londoners had plaied with Your Majesties Royal Father, and your Majestie, I saw the Face of all things look very sadly, both in* France, Holland *and* Spain, *the Royall partie being banished from home, put to great extremities abroad, and almost insufferable wants: At which time I had advice from one of* Dover *that the three hundred thousand pounds in Silver in the aforesaid Ships, part of it appertained to* Amsterdam *Merchants, and other parts to* Spaniards, *and some to* Hamburgers; *and I had the Copies of the Original Commission under the Great Seal of* Holland, *to* de Witt, *and* de Ruter, *the Vice Admirals of* Holland, *to require them to guard all Ships coming from* Spain *to* Ostend, *or* Dunkirk, *from the* English, *the* Dutch *and Parliament being at Warre; and this was done upon the Petition of the* Merchants *of* Amsterdam, *to the high and mightie Lords the States, to guard the Ships from the* English; *which*

which Commission, and Petition at this day remains in the Admiraltie. I cast about how I might first divide the pretended Councel of State, in December 1652. *amongst themselves, about this Silver, in the aforesaid Ships, and set them to stay it, which I knew would ingage the Rump Parliament in a forreign War, and so though the Kings Partie were oppressed at home, the Rump might wast their Souldiers, and have more hands about their Ears then they were aware of, and in time be beaten out of breath, and so the Royal Partie might rise again. I divided the Councel so as there was ten for sending me to the* Tower, *and clearing the Silver, and twelve for the staying the Silver, and giving me thanks. I made some of my secret Friends acquainted with this design, they approved thereof; and so having promised secretly one to another, for it concerned my life. I told them from time to time how I laid my design, till at last I ingaged* Cromwel *to take up the Silver from aboard the Ships,* Sampson, Salvador, *and St.* George, *and that he would dissolve the Parliament; the same night that he dissolved the long Parliament, he could not sleep for it about the* 15. April 1652. Cromwel *sent Mr* Sadler *the Town-Clerk of* LONDON, *and Coll.* Bingham *to me, to come presently to him at the* Cock-pit, *to give him the Coppies of all the Bills of these Ships Lading, and the value of the Silver, which I did; and after he had them,* Cromwell *could not sleep till he had the Silver in* Barksteads *custody in the* Tower. *I found him to be forward in it, to get the Silver into his possession in the* Tower, *being* 29. April 1653. Oliver Cromwell *sent a guard of Souldiers to seize on the Silver aboard these Ships, the* Sampson, Salvador, *and St.* George, *the* 20. *day of* April 1652. Bradshaw *tore his Hair before me, and a Friend of mine,* Bradshaw *telling him that* Cromwell *had undone them all by forcing the Parliament, and that now he saw apparently he was an undone man.*

Bradshaw *storming at me* Tho. Violet, *saying, I was the fatallest*

man that ever was to the Councel and Parliament for ſtaying this Silver, and that had I not ſet the Councel and Parliament to ſtay this Silver, till that every mans claim was particularly proved, the Silver had been all Tranſported, and Cromwell *never durſt have diſſolved the Parliament, had he not got the Silver in theſe Ships, being three hundred thouſand pounds into his hands.*

All which I did premeditately to ſet them, and the Councel, Parliament, and altogether by the Ears, to divide and weaken their Councels. And I made ſeveral perſons acquainted with my deſign, who are wel known to your Majeſtie, both for their Service and Fidelity, if I be required I will name them. Before ever I undertook this Buſineſſe, *I* had their advices, and approbation under ſecreſie, for it had coſt us all our lives had it bin known, I had given the Parliament this vomit to undo them.

This I can prove to be the truth, and Sir *James Harrington*, *Frances Allen*, and *Tho. Scot* uſed to ſay, it was *Violet* deſtroyed the Parliament, and not *Cromwell*; for had I not ſtayed the Silver *Cromwell* durſt not have forced the Parliament. But whereas Doctor *Walker*, and ſome others have declared to ſome Merchants, and others of *London*, I ſtayed the *Spaniards* Silver, and would not conſent to the diſcharge; I was ſo far from hindring the *Spaniards* of their right, that I Petitioned *Cromwell* and his Councel to diſcharge the *Spaniards* Silver. But Doctor *Walker* oppoſed me in it, as appears by Doctor *Walkers* Certificate to *Cromwells* Councel.

Mr. *Jeſſop* Clerk of the Parliament delivered it to me upon condition I ſhould return it to him when I had done with it, I humbly pray your Majeſties moſt Honourable Councel to take the pains to peruſe it, and they will ſee only Doctor *VValker* ſtaid all the *Spaniards* ſilver, I ſtayed the *Dutch* ſilver.

At laſt when *Oliver Cromwel* ſaw his Error, in taking on himſelf the government in his ſingle perſon, and in looking after the ſilver mines in *Hiſpaniola*, and ſeizing upon the ſilver, as I had ſet him to do, he curſed me often times bitterly; Mr. *Beck* of *VVeſtminſter*, being *Oliver Cromwels* Sollicitor, and Maſter *Francis Bacon* the Maſter of his Requeſt: I uſed them to ſollicit my buſineſs to *Cromwel*, for to get ſatisfaction for my eſtate unjuſtly taken away, but they both told me, he would never do nothing for me, for he hated my name and remembrance; and that whenſoever they moved him of my name concerning any buſineſs, he would be in a rage; Mr. *Beck*, and Mr. *Bacon* ſeveral times have asked me whether I could imagine the reaſon? I told them No, I wondred at it.

But indeed I know the reaſon, he did ſee I had ſet him on thoſe things which he was not able to maſter, and though I put on it the face of innocency I knew from the firſt hour that *Cromwell* took the 278250 *l.* into his cuſtody, that he would deſtroy the Parliament, and divide and ſubdivide among themſelves, till all ended in confuſion: I thought it my duty to give your *Majeſtie*, this true Accompt and can prove it as aforeſaid, and ſeveral other ſervices, your *Petitioner* hath done for your *Majeſtie*, where in every on he ventured his life for your *Majeſties* ſervice, and never had farthing either of the *Parliament* or *Cromwell*, but expended his own money for ſeveral years, to the value of fifteen hundred pounds. And twenty thouſand pounds taken from me by the Parliament as aforeſaid. There are many of the then Honourable *Priſoners* in the Tower can tell your *Majeſtie*, how active *I* was always in your *Majeſties* Fathers ſervice in the Tower: *I* humbly refer my ſelf to this following Certificate for the loſs of my Eſtate. Theſe

THese are to Certifie, whom it may concern; That I William Du-Gard of London, Clerk, have known Thomas Violet of London Goldsmith many years; and have been privy to his Applications to the Parliament, for restoring him to his estate, taken from him by the Parliament in 1643. for his bringing up a Letter of Peace to the City of London, from Oxford, from his late Majestie CHARLES the I. of blessed Memory; And I have seen Mr. Violets Original Petitions, Accounts, and Demands of the Long Parliament, for satisfaction for his Estate, in Lands, Houses, Offices, Bonds, Debts, Goods, to the value of above eleven thousand pounds; so much hath been confessed to me by several of the Committee of Parliament, that Examined the said Tho. Violets sufferings, that they found it fully proved Mr. Violets Losses to be above the summe of eleven thousand pounds, besides his Imprisonment and forbearance. And I have heard several Parliament-men confesse, that Mr. Violet was unjustly oppressed, contrary to Gods Law and mans, for being sequestred for bringing up the Kings Letter for Peace; and several Members of Parliament, upon my Solicitation promised him from time to time satisfaction, but abused him by delays, making him for many years lose both time, and expend much money in waiting on them to my knowledge; but never received farthing from them.

I do further testifie, upon the Perusall of Mr. Violets Papers, and the Confession of several of his Neighbours, who knew him before the Year 1643. that I do esteem his Losses to be far above eleven thousand pounds since 1643. besides his Imprisonment, and losse of his Calling, to his damage at this time above twenty thousand pounds. In witnesse whereof I have hereto subscribed my Hand.

 WILL. DU-GARD.

The same is in Effect certifi'd by several other Gentlemen, whose Names are subscribed, viz.

ALEXANDER HOLT *of* London, *Goldsmith.*
WILLIAM BOURNE *of* London, *Brewer.*
PAUL SMITH, ROBERT EMERY } *of* London *Gentlemen.*

Witnesses.

Josiah Smith. *Paul Edwards.* — *John Wegewood.* *Henry Goldston.* — *William Barnes* *Knightley Freeman.*

A true Coppy of Doctor *Walkers* report concerning the Silver Ships the 14th of *Aprill* 1654.

To OLIVER CROMWELS Councel.

May it please your Honours,

IN the busines concerning the Ships and Silver goods in the three Ships in the *Samson*, *Salvador*, and S. *George* upon attending your Lordships, with *Mr. Violet*, severall particular were proposed, and I was directed by your Honours summarily, to state them, and to give my humble opinion upon every of them.

The particulars were,

1. Concerning the Silver in these three Ships, which was the bulk of the whole matter upon which I argued, when I procured the *Onus probandi* to be cast on the other side.

Mr. *Violet* devided it thus, that there was one *Boschard* a Hamburger, and one *Stephen de Balderos*, and one *Lewis Fardinandes Hugelo*, and one *Losa Berona*; and one *Mexico Herera*, and one *Michaell Severino Lozenso de Euclet*; and one *Thomas Sauches*, *de Urise Anthonio de Puntho Spaniards*, and one *Dony Martin* Native of *Galloway* in *Ireland*, that laid particular claims every of them, to some parcels of the Silver laden for their accompts all whom (as Mr. *Violet Stated it*) came along in the said Ships and have attended their claims here ever since upon the place, in making their proofs and sollicitings; for bringing it on to a hearing for their particulars and are as Mr. *Violet* states it, by their long attendance and spending in diet and otherwise reduced to such extremity as they for want are ready to starve.

For

For theſe Mr. *Violet*, hath propoſed that his Highneſs and your Lordſhips would direct that their claims would come on to a preſent hearing; that ſo what was found to be juſtly and really theirs might be adjudged them: not onely for their preſent relief, but for the vindicating (as Mr. *Violet* terms it) the juſtice of the Nation, and preventing any Imbargoes abroad for want of juſtice here.

Now for this my Lords being as I conceive, rather the prudential part then the legal, I muſt not take upon me to give any opinion in it, but ſubmit it wholly to your Lordſhips to conſider the prudence of it, whether you will hold it fit that theſe particulars ſhall come on before the reſt of the claims; for the other Silver in the ſaid Ships and ſo to handle by pieces, or whether to have all the Silver directed by tryall and hearing altogether.

For the reſt being the great bulks of the Silver, Mr. *Violet* propoſed that pleas ſhould be put in, to be a ground for Commiſſioners to be procured to go into *Spain* and *Flanders* to examine witneſſes there; againſt the ſeveral claimers, and their claims ſuppoſing that in reſpect the Laws of *Spain* prohibit the carrying out of Silver under great penalties, the claymors would not dare to own it in *Spain*, if Commiſſioners for his Highneſs, ſhould be ſent over thither and that much diſcoveries would there be made, and witneſſes be found in *Spain* if active perſons be imployed and ſent over thither.

Mr. *Violet* propoſed that there would be this farther uſe made of it, by procraſtinating the buſineſſes, and gaining of ſo long time as for Commiſſions to go into *Spain*, and be executed there and returned.

As to the laſt of theſe it is evident, that it muſt of neceſſity gain time, and delay the hearing.

But whether upon the main matter, it will produce any thing or countervaile the charge, which muſt needs iſſue out of purſe and cannot but be vaſt in executing ſo many Commiſſions by the Magiſtrates of *Spain*, and imploying ſuch as muſt neceſſarily, be ſent over to look after it, I have often told Mr. *Violet*, that I much doubt and muſt ſubmit it to your Lordſhips, not daring of my ſelf to venture upon it; without a ſpecial warrant, for ſeveral reaſons.

1. For that we yet know of never a particular witneſs by name to examine when we came thither.

2. And for that it will be uncertain whether after ſo great acharg ſpent to make inquiry there, any poſitive witneſſes would be there or not.

3. If any there ſhall be found it will be uncertain whether upon the

claymors croſs interogatories they may not ſay more againſt us, then upon ours for us, being there in a Countrey where the claymors will in all likelihood finde more means, friends and opportunities, then thoſe that ſhall be ſent over from hence againſt them.

4. For that the claymors have already upon their own Commiſſions, owned their claims in *Spain*, and examined witneſſes by the Magiſtrates publickly there upon; and therfore no doubt, but they may again publickly avow them at ours, if any new Commiſſions go from hence for his Highneſs: as well as they did upon their own claims when Commiſſions iſſued to *Spain*, for them which they have procured to be there ſpeeded and returned back again hither into Court.

And therefore what your Lordſhips propoſed to me as firſt in expedient, that is, to endeavour that publication for the claimors might ſo paſs, that liberty might be given to ſee their proofs, and yet if occaſion were to plead and examine witneſſes notwithſtanding, which Albeit, the rule be that contrary matter may not be examined upon after publication and ſight of the witneſſes; yet in thoſe caſes of the Silver in the ſaid three Ships, I have ſince I waited upon your Lordſhips, upon debates with the adverſe Proctors and Councels publickly in Court procured ſuch a *Salvo* by their conſents to be entred and publication is ſo paſt that now the depoſitions and proofs for the claimors may be peruſed, and yet liberty to plead and examine for his Highneſs (if there be occaſion) notwithſtanding; but there being ſo many Commiſſions returned for the claimors, and the depoſitions ſo extream long, it will ask a good time to puruſe and conſider them.

As to the reſt of the goods in thoſe Ships, not being Silver, many of them, being much decayed and periſhed by ſo long lying, and ſome of them having been heard already and for what remaines, I ſee no reaſon at all to put off the hearing of them any longer; for that the main charge ſuſpicions and grounds were againſt the Silver: and had not (as I humbly conceive) any ſuch reflex upon the Tobaccoes, Hides, and other goods; & beſides ſuch ſpecial proviſions may be made (as hath alſo been already done in what hath been heard) that they may have no manner of conſequence at all, as to any of the Silver.

And as to the Ships themſelves, *viz.* The *Sampſon*, *Salvador*, and St. *George*, for as much as the publick Agent for *Hamborough* hath often preſſed it, that they might be permitted to come to hearing, & for that by this long lying, one of the ſaid Ships hath been already ſunk in the River; and that if the ſaid Ships ſhould be continued much longer without

without repairing and imployment, it is publickly (and hath been often) affirmed in Court, that they will decay, perish and come to nothing, I do humbly conceive submitting it nevertheless to your Lordships that for the avoiding of further perishing of the said Ships, and other lading (not being Silver) and for avoiding claimour and scandal in delay of justice, The said Ships, and remainder of the lading (except the Silver) may if your Lordships please, be permitted to come to a hearing and judgement.

As for Mr. *Violet* himself, I can onely say that by severall Orders of the former Councell of State; he was directed to sollicite and look after this businesse of the Silver Ships, and that he hath often attended and spoken in Court, and many times repaired to me, and consulted about it; and that it hath appeared to me (and may also to your Lordships by perusing what he hath printed) he hath spent much time about it, and I verily believe hath drawn much envy upon himself, and run some hazard and danger and spent his own monies in going up and down to make his enquiries. But I cannot determine what the produce or effect thereof will be, or amount unto untill some particular and positive proofs be brought in to prove the Silver, or at least some part thereof really and truely to belong to some *Hollanders*, specifying their names, and the parcells, and discovering the fraud, in colouring it in other feigned names.

For as I have humbly declared unto your Lordships, for as much as the *Onus probandi* is by Law cast upon the claimors. The result is, that for so much as the claimors shall not positively and certainly make speciall and particular proofs of: there the judgement will be for confiscation in default of their proof, in respect of the *Onus Probandi* so cast.

But for so much as the claimors shall make, & have made positive particular & concludent proofs, of their real property. There I humbly conceive unless more proofs be brought in, then yet are, or that Mr. *Violet* can bring in certain and particular proofs, to encounter the other that in references and arguments will be of no more force, then the casting of the *Onus probandi* alone will do of it self, so that I dare not take upon me to give any opinion, But must leave the consideration of Mr. *Violet* and his service to your Lordships.

All which I humbly Submit

April 14. 1654. Walter Walker.

‖ Truly Doctor *Walker*, if either you or *O. Cromwel* had known upon what grounds or reasons I staid this silver, you (as *O. Cromwel's* Fiscal or Judge Advocate) would have paid me as you did the *Kentish* men for declaring for the King. I was forewarned of trusting of you by several of the Kings friends, who remembred how you served your Master Bishop *Williams* in the Star-chamber. Indeed you told me *Cromwel* nor the Parliament would never give mee any thing, and seing they would be advised by me & give me nothing, after they had robbed me of all my estate they could finger, I was resolved to give them that advice to be revenged of them, that if they took it, it should destroy both the Parliament and *Cromwel*. God it was that incouraged me and blinded them, that they should ever trust a mans advice that they had ruined. They should have remembred that advice, *Trust not a pretended reconciled adversary*; especially keeping him from his estate, as they did me to this day to my dammage Twenty thousand pounds. Sir *Henry Vane* junior having a better nose than the rest, ever said I was not to be trusted, telling *Bradshaw* I had several times made my application to him, but he would have nothing to do with me: and when I stayed the Silver, *Vane* moved to send me to the Tower; for (said he at the council) this Villain will set us against all the world at once, to bring in the King of Scots; I wonder the Council claps him not up. Thereupon it was put to the question: whereof 10 of them were for laying me in prison, and 12 for giving me thanks; all those that were of the then Council of State knows this to be true, That I made a fraction between *Bradshaw* and *Vane*. *Cromwel* and *Bradshaw* with the rest of their party about the staying the Silver, but *Vane*, *Strickland* and *Nevil* were for letting of it go. This Silver which I stayed was the only cause of blowing up the Long Parliament, which I knew at that time an Army of 40000 men could not have done.

By Command from King *CHARLES* the Firſt, of bleſſed Memory, as appears by Warrant under his Royal Hand and Seal, I cauſed theſe men following to be fined in the *Star-Chamber*, for tranſporting Gold and Silver, and culling and melting down the heavie Coine of the Nation.

The 25th. of Ian. 12. Car.		*Th. 17th. of Febr. 12 Car.*	
Charles Frank	4000 l.	*Peter Hern*	2000 l.
Robert Ellis	4000 l.	*John Tere*	2000 l.
Iſaac Romeer	3000 l.	*Timothie Eman*	2000 l.
Jacob Delew	1000 l.	*Iſaac Brames*	1000 l.
Roger Fletcher	1000 l.	*Henry Futter*	500 l.
Richard Cockram	1000 l.	*Henry Sweeting*	500 l.
John Parrat	1000 l.	*John Perrin*	100 l.

The Total of the ſaid Fines amount to the ſumme of 23100 l.

This Sentence awed the Tranſporters of Gold, till theſe Troubles, they durſt not tranſport Gold or Silver, for fear I ſhould meet with them.

Sir *John Wollaſton* Knight, and *William Gibs* Eſquire, both Aldermen of the City of *London*, being informed againſt in this Information, by the then Atturney-General, procured a Pardon from your Majeſties Royal Father, and ſo were diſcharged. Theſe two villains betrayed your Royal Father. 1643. As aforeſaid.

And Mr. *Peter Fountain*, who was informed againſt for Tranſporting of Gold by me, procured his Pardon upon paiment of 1100 l. to the Lord of St. *Albanes*, then Maſter *Jermyn*. And all theſe I did bring to a Trial, at my own charge.

That beſides the fourteen offenders ſentenced in the *Star-Chamber*, and pardoned, as aforeſaid, there are many other Merchants, Gold-ſmiths, and others, that have tranſported Gold and Silver out of the Nation.

Die Mercurii 1 Sept. 1647.

ORdered by the Commons in Parliament Aſſembled, That it be referred to the Committee of the Navie to conſider of, and take ſome effectual courſe to prevent the Tranſportation of Bullion out of the Kingdom: and ſpeedily to report what they have done herein, to the Houſe.

H. Elſing. *Cler. Parl.*

May it pleaſe your Majeſty, to peruſe your Royal Fathers letter, which I have printed in this book, folio 14, wherein his late Majeſty of glorious memory, commands me that I ſhould not diſcover the tranſpotters of Gold and Silver to the Parliament, without his Majeſties eſpecial licence. His Majeſty knew the fines and compoſition of the offenders would bring the Parliament in great ſums of money, which they would then imploy againſt him, being then upon the point to call the *Scotch* then to invade the Kingdom of *England*, deſtroy his Majeſty, and the Royal party.

At the ſame time I had in the Parliament my Patent under examination in the Houſe of Commons, for an Office I have for two lives, under your Royal Fathers great Seal of *England*, for the eſſaying and ſealing all Gold and Silver Wire, and *S*ilver, and Gold Thrid, and to warrant the ſame to the Wearers, that it be good Silver, and a due proportion of Silver to *S*ilk. This Patent was commanded by Sir *Robert Harlow*, being Chair man to a Committee, to be brought into the Houſe and referred to a Committee, who after ſeveral daies hearing referred all parties to the Law, concerning the regulation of Gold and Silver wier.

And I juſtified my Patent to be for the good of the Kingdom in general, and that it ſaved fifty thouſand pounds a year by my ſaid office, and by my regulation and tying the workmen to work good Silver, and a due proportion of Silver to Silk; and this I humbly ſay at this day to be true, as I will prove it at the Council for Trade.

There was a Committee appointed, and *Pim*, *Hamden*, *Whittaker*, *Corbet*, *&c.* to article with me for to diſcover the tranſporters of Gold and *S*ilver, and if I would do that, and raiſe the Parliament monies by the fines of the offenders, then I was by their procurement that the committee of Parliament ſhould report the legalty and juſtice of my aforeſaid Patent and Office; and it ſhould have been confirmed by Parliament, but firſt I was to raiſe the Parliament fourty thouſand pounds by the fines of the tranſporters of Gold.

This agreement was made between the Committee of Parliament and me, in the Court of Wards, about the 10th. of November 1643. and I prepared to make my diſcovery accordingly. But then, may it pleaſe your Majeſtie, comes your Majeſties Fathers Letter, of bleſſed memorie, and commands me not to do this ſervice for the Parliament at my peril, as *I* have it to ſhew under his *M*ajeſties hand and Seal. Thereupon preſently *I* obeyed his Sacred Letter, and choſe Poverty and Loy-

alty before Riches, and to be a Rebel for my Loyalty I have been moſt Barbarouſly uſed.

I told the Committee, that upon enquiry after the buſineſs, I found the *French* and *Dutch* Merchants, and ſtrangers, that had tranſported the Gold and ſilver out of the Nation; were removed from *Dover*, and I could not for the preſent do them that ſervice I had promiſed them.

Whereupon *Whittaker* and *Corbet* took that but for a flam, and ſaid, I was your Majeſties Royal Fathers Spie, a Cavalier, and a Malignant, and moved the Houſe againſt me. and they ſent me to the Kings-bench; and there I remained a Priſoner, till I made an exchange for Mr. *Heſterig*, then Priſoner at *Beaver* Caſtle 1643. in *December*.

In *January* after his late Majeſtie had exchanged me, preſently he commands me to bring up the Letter aforeſaid, from his late Majeſty to the Citizens of *London*, which I did, and the barbarous abuſes which I received from Citie and Parliament, for bringing the ſame up, I have humbly declared.

My humble requeſt unto your *M*aieſty is, that you would be pleaſed to obſerve, all my ſuffering is only for my loyalty to your *M*aieſties Royal Father, would I have obeyed the Parliament, and diſcovered the Tranſporters of Gold at that time, 1643. I had inioyed all my eſtate, and been ſetled in the Office which I have for two Lives for the regulating Gold and Silver Thred and Wyer.

And all this damage I ſuffered for obeying your *M*aieſties Royal Fathers command, to my damage at this day above twenty thouſand pounds: *M*y moſt humble Petition to your Majeſty is, That ſeeing I was oppreſſed and traduced by the tyranny of Sir *Henry Vane* junior, Sir *Arthur Haſelrig*, and Mr. *St. John*, they being the principal Actors that ruined me, that I may have by your Majeſties goodneſs, bounty, and mercy, allotted out of Sir *Arthur Haſelrigs*, and Sir *Henry Vanes* eſtates ſuch ſatisfaction and reparation as your Majeſty in your Royal wiſdom ſhall think fit and juſt for my ſupport, after ſo ſad an oppreſſion for my loyalty to your Royal Father, the petition to the Parliament, and my charge againſt *Vane*, *St. John*, *Haſterig*, was put into the Parliament before your Majeſties gracious Letter from *Breda*, the Lords in Parliament ordered me to reſpite my Petition to them, until your Maieſties happy arrival into *England*, and ever ſince I watched my opportunity to ſhew what I have done and ſuffered for your Royal Father, and what I can and will do for Your Majeſties Royal ſervice, if you pleaſe to command me, I am at your ſervice, as far as my life and eſtate will go.

May

MAY it pleaſe your Majeſty, in the year 1636. your *Majeſties* Royal Father gave Alderman *Wollaſton*, and Alderman *Gibbs* his Gratious pardon, Sir *Henry Mildmay*, and the Company of Goldſmiths, charged Alderman *VVollaſton* for buying the Kings ſtollen Plate, and Alderman *Gibbs*, for refining and melting of Silver contrary to the Lawes, as will appear in the Records of the Councel-Table, about *March* 1635. Had not his Royal Majeſty of bleſſed memory pardoned the then Lord Major *Wollaſton*, the Law had hanged him before ever he had come to have been Lord Major of *London*; and then he ſhould have prevented this *VVollaſton* from being ſuch a Traitor to his Majeſty, the Proverb ſaith, *Save a Thief from the gallows and he will hang thee*: This *VVollaſton* proved a bloody enemy to the King to his dying day, and *Gibbs* as bad as he, but is yet living.

For as ſoon as ever I delivered his Majeſties Meſſage unto my Lord Major, he ſent for his fellow Traitor Alderman *Gibbs*, and they preſently concluded to make Sir *Henry Vane* junior, Sir *Arthur Haſlerig*, Mr Sollici or *St. John*, and *Francis Allen*, acquainted with the Kings Letter, and ordered preſently to apprehend me, Sir *Baſil Brook*, and Mr. *Rily* to ſeize upon our Eſtates and ſequeſter us: And ſo preſently I was that night apprehended, and for four years ſo uſed, that never any man that brought up a Letter from any King of *England* to *London*, for a Peace, was ſo barbarouſly and cruelly uſed, that Evening the aforeſaid perſons and ſome others examined me, they carried me to Goldſmiths Hall, they ſent for Sir *Baſil Brook*, and Mr *Rily*, and *St. John* the Kings Sollicitor cauſed all our Pockets to be ſearched, and found their Letters in Sir *Baſil Brooks* and *Rilies*, but none in mine, and as Sir *Baſil Brook* preſented him with the Kings Letter, which I brought up from *Oxford*; *St. John* asked Sir *Baſil Brook* for another Letter, which the Kings Majeſty had ſent up, the day before I went to *Oxford* to preſſe *Rily* and his party, to act their buſineſs as ſoon as they could, with a Letter from my Lord *George Digby*, which the Officers found about Sir *Baſil Brook*. Touching this buſineſs when they had theſe Letters, St. *Johns*, *Vane*, *Haſelrig*, Mr. *Allen*, Lord Major *Wollaſton*, and Alderman *Gibbs*, and ſeveral others, made themſelves very merry with them. There was Mr. *Jackſon* the Eſſay-Maſter of Goldſmiths Hall, a very honeſt man, and one that ſaved my life at that time, in diſcovering to me what was confeſſed by *Rily*, that he had not diſcovered any thing, and that the aforeſaid Committee were reſolved to face me down *Rilie* had confeſſed all, and ſo would have me to diſcover, and I ſhould have mercie.

They found in Mr. *Rilies* pockets *Reads* two Letters aforeſaid, and threatned him to have him racked, if he would not diſcover the bottom of the buſineſſe, and who they were in the Citie, that plotted to oppoſe the *Scots* coming in.

But there was an Oath of Secrecy amongſt them all, and *Rilie* knew them all, but I was not privy to the number that was but only to act with Sir *Baſil Brook*, *Read*, and at *Oxford* with his Majeſtie, the Queens Majeſtie, the Dutcheſs of *Buckingham*, and Lord *Digby*, and to bring the Kings Letter from *Oxford*.

Had *Rily* but confeſſed thoſe Gentlemen in *London* that were privie with him

in this buſineſs he had made many ſcore of men in the City of *London*, loſe their Lives and Eſtates.

And had the Lord Major *VVollaſton* concealed the buſineſs twenty four hours, it had been out of his power to have ſtopped this deſign for peace: His late Majeſty of bleſſed memory told me at *Oxford*, That *Rily* had ſent him down by one that came purpoſely to *Read* from *London*, a Liſt of above two hundred of the principal men that had ingaged in this buſineſs, every man upon an Oath of ſecreſie: The late King commanded me to tell Mr. *Rilie* Scoutmaſter-general of the City, that he ſhould follow his former Directions, which was to be careful whom he imparted this buſineſs to, and to treat with them ſeverally, and not together, for all their ſecurity depended thereon, that it did concern all our Lives and Eſtates to be circumſpect: We had former Preſidents to make us wary, *Tomkins* and *Challenor* and others, and though he was careful of all his Subjects, yet of thoſe that were moſt forward to ſerve him, he was moſt tender that they ſhould venture themſelves, telling me he did know more of this deſign then I did, by Gods bleſſing it will take faith his Majeſtie, I have laid it ſo with Mr *Rily*, that I am aſſured of a happy ſucceſs, go thy way, I will make thee a man, and tell my Lord Major, and Mr. *Rilie*, I will make them famous for ever. *Rily* was by all parties truſted to carry on this deſign, and had not the ſins of the Nation prevented us of ſuch a mercy (for it was not Gods time) for our deliverance, there was never in all theſe troubles a deſign for putting an end to the War without bloodſhed, ſo laid and contrived as Sir *Baſil Brook*, Col. *Read*, Mr. *Rily*, had laid every man his part ſeverally; and ſo ſecretly, that though the principal men in the City were ingaged in the buſineſs to make the City of *London* to declare for the King, and to oppoſe the *Scots* invading of *England*, and the Cities Declaration which they intended to publiſh, I brought it to his Majeſty my ſelf 1643. and received my Orders and Directions thereupon my ſelf from his Majeſty, and the Queens moſt excellent Majeſty, the Dutcheſs of *Buckingham*, and the Lord *Georgs Digby* his Majeſties Secretary and Coll. *Read*, were only privie to this buſineſſe, to my knowledge, at the Court, and no other.

Two Letters of Col. *Read's*, ſent to Mr. *Theophilus Rily*, Scout-maſter of the City of *London*, from *Oxford*, to incourage the Common-Councel of the City of *London*, to Petition his late Majeſty for Peace; and to conſider the ſad Effects that would follow, upon the *Scots* invading *England*. Jan. 1643.

SIR!

I Wrote to you formerly, but never had any Anſwer, I aſſure you faithfully I have not been wanting to do what you deſired (as you may perceiv by the effects) & if you have not your deſire, blame your ſelf,

and

and give me leave to tell you, that if you neglect the opportunity now offered to you, it may be you shall never have the like again; for I have made those whom you have given just occasion to be your worst friends, to be your best, and the only instruments to procure what here is sent you, and be you confident shee shall still be so, provided you do your part; consider I beseech you, what a gap is opened by bringing in of the Scots for the destruction of this Kingdom, if there be not a Peace (which I pray God Almightie to send speedily) you must expect Armies of Strangers from several Places, who are now preparing, who certainly at their coming in will over-run the whole Kingdom, and when it is past remedy, you will see your own Errors, and therefore to prevent more misery then I am able to expresse to this deplorable Kingdom, and the effusion of the bloud of thousands of men, women, and children, which must inevitably be this Summer; apply your selves in an humble and submissive way to his Majestie, whom I know you will finde ready with Arms out-stretched to receive you to favor and mercy, and grant you favors, even beyond your expectation. Defer no time (for God's sake) and what you will do, do it speedily; I say again, do it speedily, for reasons, I may not write.

Oxford Dec. 10, 1660

The Queens most Excellent Majesty, in my hearing, (I being sent down to *Oxford*, by order of *Rilie* and some others, to bring up his Majesties Letter *Decemb.* 1643.) did most earnestly intercede for the City of *London*. The King thereupon replied, that he had there the best and worst subjects of any King in *Christendom*; and hereupon the Queen replied, *Violet* it shall be my care to see the Gentlemen that come from the City with a Petition to the King shall be well accomodated, and have a most Gratious Answer to all their just demands, God blesse them, & God increase their number, and thereupon the Queens Majesty wept, and the King drew his handkerchief out of his pocket, and

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Col. *Read's* Paper to Mr. *Rilie*, Scoutmaster of the City of LONDON,

SIR!

I Assure you that I have not been wanting to further your good desires, and if it be not your own faults, I make no doubt but things will have an happy issue; for I finde those that are most concerned in it, for-

the tears stood in the Kings eyes, which made both *Read* and I fall a weeping, and thereupon the Queen commanded Col. *Read* to lift up the Hangings, to see no body stood behinde the Hangings to hear what shee said, which *Read* did, and when the Queen see no body behinde the Hangings; Ah *Violet* said she the King and I am in a most sad condition, we have Traytors about us, that watch all our Words and Actions, we speak nothing, nor do nothing, but it is sent up to the Parliament, and they interpret it in the worst Sence: The Queens Majesty at that time was very ill, and lookt very carefully, and was nothing but Skin and Bones. God be thanked for the blessed change that is here at this day, the Kings Majesty her Son, in the Throne of his Royal Father, and King of the hearts of his People; these two Papers was found in *Rilies* pockets, and was printed by Order of Parliament, and Col. *Read* charged to be a Jesuite, I am sure of it these Papers makes him a true Prophet, I saved *Reads* life in getting him exchanged of the General *Essex* by a wrong name.

ward enough: Reflect now upon the miserie of the times, and upon the groans and sufferings of those you see not, which yet have been nothing to what they will be, if not speedily prevented by a Peace; which to obtain I beseech you, let it not only be your own care, but the care of all those you love, or have power with, otherwise be confident of a generall ruine, which certainly will be inevitable both to your selves and posteritie; and therefore take it into your serious consideration, and let no causles jealousies hinder you to apply your selves in an humble and submissive manner to his Majestie, who I am sure will yet look upon you with a gracious eie; lose no time, for the longer you delay, it may prove the more difficult, no doubt.

This last Letter I Tho. Violet *delivered from* Read *at* Oxford, *to Mr.* Rilie *in* London Decemb. 20. 1642.

This Coll. Read *I got exchanged by a wrong name, for a private Souldier, at the intreatie of* Sir Basil Brook, *who told me I should do a very good service for his Majestie, and the Queens Majestie, to get* Read *to be discharged, but that must be done by a wrong name, or else said Sir* Basil Brook *the Parliament would never admit of his exchang; I did effect it, and sent this Coll.* Read *to the King at* Oxford, *upon condition he would returne to Mr.* Rilie *the Scout-master of* London, *how he found his Majestie inclined to receive a Petition from the City of* London *for peace, that they would declare themselves for a peace, and Petition his Majestie for a cessation of Arms; and an accommodation between the late King of Glorious memory. And* I Tho. Violet *was sent down to* Oxford Decemb. 29 1643 *to bring up his Majesties Gratious Letter, the Copie of the Citie of* London's *desire, being sent to his late Majestie, wherein they desired upon the Copie I brought to Oxford,*

to

to have his Majestie directed his Letter to the Militia *of* London, *but his late Majestie would not own the* Militia, *to treat with them as the* Militia *of the Citie, because his Majestie told me at* Oxford *they were not impowred by his Commission, and he would not own them: I told his late Majestie, and the Lord* Digbie, *it was contrary to my instructions which I received from Mr.* Rilie, *to alter the superscription of His Majesties Letter, but seeing His Majestie would not but direct his Letter,* To our Lord Mayor, and Aldermen of our City of *London*, and all other our well affected Subjects of that our Citie. *I would venture my life to bring up this Letter to* London, *and going according to my instructions I received from his Maiestie, to acquaint* Wollaston *then Lord* Mayor *of* London, *and Alderman* Gibbs, *they caused me some few houres after I was gon from them, to be apprehended upon a Charge of High Treason.*

May it please your Majesty to peruse this ensuing Narrative, viz. in *Sept.* 1657. I being sick sent to *Bradshaw* to write to the pretended Protector *Cromwell*, that if he would not pay me the eleven thousand pounds he promised me, to pay me some considerable sum for my support. *Bradshaw* at that time wrote to *Cromwell* very earnestly to pay me a considerable sum in part, using this as his argument, and telling Mr *Beck* (*Cromwels* Solicitour) Mr *Tho. Hewet*, and Mr *Yates* my Chirurgeon (who were all three by when *Bradshaw* wrote to the pretended Protector about me) *Bradshaw* said, Remember my service to my Lord Protector, and desire him in my name to pay *Violet* a considerable part of his money for his support, according to his quality; my Lord Protector knowes not *Violet* so well as I do: If the man should go to *Charls Stuart*, he would do us more mischief than a hundred thousand pounds would do us good: there are some Kings would give an hundred thousand pounds for to have such an Engine for their turn, and they knew him as well as I do. This message was sent to *Cromwel* from *Bradshaw* by Mr *Beck* the Protectors Solicitour; Mr *Hewet*, Mr *Yates*, and these Gentlemen are all in *London* to justifie this to be true.

Mr *Beck* upon this message moved Mr *Francis Bacon*, the master of the Requests, to move *Cromwel* the Protector effectually about me, and he

he would also move him; which they did, and they both told mee when my name was but mentioned for my money I petitioned for, *Cromwel* was so incensed against me, that he bestowed all the bad words in the world, and said, that he took me to be a dangerous person, and an Arrant Villain against him; and, in a word (saith Mr *Bacon* and Mr *Beck*) he takes thee to be an Arrant Knave. They often asked me if I could imagine the reason that the Protector, and some of his Council, was so bitter against me, that they never heard man have a worse character than *Cromwel* did give me, and some of his Council that were intimate with him, as *Thurloe*, &c. I replyed, I received good for evil, the Protectors payment to me is not currant to revile me for venturing my life in his service, and laying out of my purse 1500 l. to get him 278250 l. so much money *Baxter* paid him clear for the silver I staid him in the ships *Sampson*, *Salvador* and St *George*, as will appear by an Ordinance of Parliament for *Baxters* discharge for the payment of that money. I knew *Cromwels* reason, but would not tell it to them. For I found (when it was too late) he knew he had undone himself, by seizing on this Silver and breaking up the Parliament; and that I was the fatal Instrument that advised him to take the Silver into his own custody, either under the Banquetting house to lodg it, or in the Tower. He did believe I did it innocently and for his good; for had he believed I had done (as truly I did) malitiously to destroy him, he would have caused me to have been torn in pieces.

Mr *Strickland* asked one Capt. *Swan*, a Gentleman of *Kent*, an intimate friend of mine, what he thought I was, and whether I was not a Cavaleer; *Strickland* telling Captain *Swan*, Many of us of the Council of State take *Violet* to be a sly and dangerous fellow, he is alwayes presenting Propositions unto us which may bear double interpretations; he pretends for the Councils profit, but I am sure it is for their danger; he hath staid Three hundred thousand pounds in Silver, and hath set us together by the ears amongst our selves, and with *Holland*: *Cromwel* and *Bradshaw* makes use of him, promising him from day to day to give him his Estate, but they but abuse him, they will never give him a farthing. I heard *Bradshaw* say, I could wish *Violet* had his Estate or the value, but there is no trusting him therein. If he should run to the King of *Scots*, he would do us more mischief than a hundred thousand pounds. Keep him poor, and that will keep him honest to us: for if he had his Estate, he would be with the King of *Scots*.

The

The King of *France* hath a ſtanding Councel for to Regulate his Mints, and to hinder the Tranſporting of Gold or Silver.

VVere the like Orders ſetled in *England*, it would be for your *Majeſties* ſervice, and keep your *Majeſties Mint* on work.

IN *an Ordinance and Declaration of the King of* France, *printed at* Paris, 30. *Oct* 1640. *Fol.* 8, 9.

We expreſly forbid, that all Materials of Gold or Silver, either coined or uncoined, ſhall not be bought and ſold at higher Rates, then is expreſly ſet down in this Declaration, which doth declare the true value that muſt be paied for the Mark of Silver.

We expreſly forbid every one of what qualitie or condition ſoever, to Tranſport out of our Kingdom any Gold or Silver, coined or uncoined, or any other Goldſmiths work, upon penaltie of forfeiture of the Materials and Merchandize, and other things therein they ſhall be found to be packed up in, beſides the penaltie of fiftie pounds, and bodily puniſhment.

In an ORDINANCE and PLACCART,

For the Regulating of the *Mint*; Publiſhed in *Bruſſels* the laſt day of *May*, 1640.

ARTIC. XI.

WE have alſo forbidden, and forbid by theſe preſents every one, of what quality or condition ſoever, as well our Subjects as others, to tranſport any Gold or Silver from henceforth out of our Lands, directly or indirectly, or to cauſe the ſame to be tranſported, Minted or unminted, without having obtained from us before hand expreſs leave and conſent to do the ſame, upon penalty of forfeiture the Gold and Silver and Bullion, and to pay beſides the double worth, as alſo the Waggons that ſhall willingly have conveyed the ſame, the offenders to be baniſhed out of our land for five years, and the ſecond time for ever.

Ordinance and Placcart at *Bruſſels* the 18th. of March, 1643.

ARTIC. LVII.

WE expresly forbid any perſon of what quality or condition ſoever to buy or ſell any Gold or Silver, either Bullion or currant, at a higher price then the Ordinance of our ſaid Mint permitteth, upon penalty of the forfeiture of all Gold and Silver the firſt time, the ſecond four times as much and ſevere correction.

Placcart and Ordinance for *Flanders* and *Amwerp*. 4 Octob. 1585.

ARTIC. XV.

WE forbid and interdict expresly that no one of what quality, or degree, or condition ſoever, ſhall tranſport or carry any Gold or Silver of our Coins or Bullion, melted or in maſs, nor any Gold or Silver to coin money, upon forfeiture of the ſaid Gold and Silver, beſides two hundred Gold Roſe Nobles, for every Mark of Gold, and twenty Golden Roſe-Nobles for every Mark of Silver, and the ſecond time to be bodily puniſhed.

ARTIC. XIII.

AND we do expresly forbid all and every one henceforth to buy or ſell any wares of Gold or Silver money at above the price of the Mint; for profit or gain, upon pain of the ſeller

seller to forfeit the pieces sold, and the buyer as much as the seller; besides, for the first time both buyer and seller to forfeit threescore pounds, and the third time to be arbitrarily punished.

Placart and Ordinances concerning the general course and regulating of the Mint and Monies, as also concerning the Exchangers, Refiners, and Goldsmiths, and others in the united Provinces, 1646.

ARTIC. XI.

AND as for the Gold and Silver money whose value is rated by this Ordinance, we expressly forbid every one to present or pay, or receive the same at higher rates then are here ordered, upon forfeiture of such money so exchanged, besides arbitrary punishment.

ARTIC. XV.

WE forbid every one to cull any Gold or Silver moneys, to sort the weighty and good ones, from the light, for private and particular profit upon pain of forfeiture, or to buy any Silver for Work at higher rate then the Ordinance, upon pain of forfeiture double the value.

ARTIC. XVII.

WEe expressly forbid from henceforth to transport or cause to be transported out of our above-said Province towards any strange Mints, any Gold or Silver, Monies or Mass or Ingots, fit to coin money, upon pain of Confiscation of the aboveſaid money and materials: And beside the penalty of 100 golden Angelots upon every mark of Gold, and 20 Angelots for every mark of Silver, besides for the second time to suffer bodily punishment.

ARTIC. XXII.

WEe forbid from henceforth every one to melt any Gold or other Moneys of her Majestie of Englands stamp, valued by these Presents upon penalty of life and goods, and the monies that shall be light, shall be brought to the Exchange according to the old Custome. If the Merchants please they may send to Amsterdam, and have all these Proclamations, and there they will see whether these Laws are not made according to the dates here aboveſaid, in France, Flanders, Holland: *The whole business I humbly submit at your Majesties and your Privy Councels feet, and humbly pray, I may ever live to see this Royall Prerogative of giving leave to transport Gold and Silver to be only in the Power of your Majestie, and your most Honourable Privie Council, that the Merchants greatness may be as a Handmaid to your Sacred Majesty, and at your command always.*

Post-

I Do desire the judicious Reader to pardon the mistakes of the Press, and to mend them with his Pen, and the disorder of sorting my Notes, being streightned in time, and fane to use two Presses for expedition, least the Merchants should have surprized his Majesty, and gotten leave by Act of Parliament to Transport Gold and Silver at their pleasure, to the damage of the Kings Majesty, and his imperial Crown, and dignity. Grant me this just Request, to mend the Errors with your Pen, and I shall be incouraged to present you with that which will be advantagious to all the *English* Merchants, which is, I do intend to make an exact pare, and calculation of all the Gold and Silver Coins in *Christendom*, their just weights and fineness, and what they will make, being full weight in his *Majesties* Mint in the *Tower* of *London*, and all the Figures, and Coins, Arms, and Mottoes severally Engraven, which will be a work of charge, and pains, and will be a guide to all Merchants, to know all Forreign Coins of Gold and Silver in *Christendom*, as well as our currant Coin of the Kingdom of *England*.

FINIS.